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The Numerical Features of the Book of Numbers

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The Numerical Features of the Book of Numbers

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

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Introduction

The leading theme of Numbers is the march of the Israelites from Mount Sinai northwards through the Wilderness to Mount Pisgah at the eastern frontier of the land of Canaan. The widely accepted view among biblical scholars on the structure of Numbers is that the book divides into three main parts based on three geographically defined main stages, locations or scenes in the march:

- Part 1, Mount Sinai: where preparations are made for the march of the Israelites
- Part 2, The Wilderness north of Mount Sinai: their march until their approach to Canaan
- Part 3, The Plains of Moab: their sojourn east of the Jordan.

There is almost general agreement about Part 1, which is 1,1-10,10, but according to M. Noth (ATD 1966) 1,1-10,36, and according to P.J. Budd (WBC, 1984) 1,1-9,14. When it comes to Part 2, however, there is no consensus as concerns its precise delimitation, which of course determines the delimitation of Part 3.

Some scholars have abandoned the idea of a tripartite structure: G.J. Wenham, *Numbers* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, 1981) divides the text into five parts based on geographical criteria:

- I 1,1-10,10 Red Sea to Sinai
- II 10,11-12,16 Sinai to Kadesh
- III 13,1-19,22 Forty years near Kadesh
- IV 20,1-22,1 Kadesh to Moab
- V 22,2-36,13 Israel in the Plains of Moab.

B.A. Levine (AB, 1993) has chosen for a bipartite structure: 1-20 and 21-36, which he divides into 14 and 13 parts respectively, mainly on the basis of the chapter division: 1-4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10,1-28; 10,29-12,16; 13-14; 15; 16-17; 18; 19; 20; and 21; 22-24; 25; 26; 27; 28-29;30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 36.

On the assumption of a *tripartite* general structure, five possibilities have been put forward:

- Option a)** 10,11(or 9,15)-25,18[P]19: the march – its setbacks and successes (marked by **P**).
- Option b)** 10,11-22,1: the march until the arrival in the Plains of Moab (marked by **P**).
- Option c)** 10,11-21,20: the march until the arrival at Pisgah east of the Jordan (marked by **P**).
- Option d)** 10,11-21,9: the march until the departure from Hor, west of the Arabah (in MT no **S/P**!).
- Option e)** 10,11-20,13: the march until the arrival at Kadesh and the sojourn there (marked by **S**).

Option a) 10,11(or 9,15)-25,18[P]19, was put forward by P.J. Budd (WBC, 1984):

- I 1,1-9,14 Constituting the community at Sinai
- II 9,15-25,18 The march – its setbacks and successes
- III 26,1-35,34 Final preparations for settlement; 36,1-13 Appendix.

J. Milgrom (The JPS Torah Commentary, 1990) bases his division on temporal criteria:

- I 1,1-10,10 The Generation of the Exodus
- II 10,11-25,19 The March from Sinai to Transjordan
- III 26,1-36,13 The Generation of the Conquest.

Option b), 10,11-22,1, is favoured, e.g., by W.H. Gispen (COT, Kampen 1959), J. de Vaulx (SB, Paris 1972), E.W. Davies (NCBC, 1995), and H. Seebass (BK, 1993). L. Schmidt (ATD, 2004) ignores the **P** and delimits 10,11-21,35. Option b) can be ruled out, in my view, because 22,1 cannot possibly be regarded as marking a turning point in the flow of the story, let alone a crucial one. More importantly, the story of Balak and Balaam in 22,2ff strictly belongs to the events that precede it: the reaction of the Moabites and Midianites to the defeat of the Amorites by the Israelites: overcome by fear of them, they summon Balaam to curse them.

Option c), 10,11-21,20, favoured by H. Jagersma (POT 1988), is a plausible alternative for Option b), because the arrival of the Israelites at Pisgah marks the end of their march. However, in my opinion, there must be a better alternative.

Option d) 10,11-21,9, proposed by G.B. Gray (ICC 1912), who distinguishes between 'West of the Arabah' and 'East of the Arabah' (21,10-36,13), is in my view out of the question, because the Masoretes did not assume a break in the story after 21,9, for they did not use a demarcating layout marker there. Moreover, the crossing of the Arabah does not seem to have been considered a crucial turning point in the march of the Israelites. In my view, the real turning point in the story is their confrontation with the nations in and around Canaan *before* their arrival at Mount Pisgah in the Plain of Moab at the eastern border of Canaan (20,14ff). And that brings us to Option e).

Option e) 10,11-20,13, was favoured by older commentators, e.g., H. Holzinger (KHAT, Tübingen 1903), P. Heinisch (HSAT, Bonn 1936), A. Noordtzijs (KV, Kampen 1941), and more recently also by M. Noth (ATD, 1966), J. Sturdy (CBC, 1976), B. Maarsingh (T&T, Kampen 1984) and D.T. Olson, *The Death of the Old and the Birth of the New*, Chicago: Scholars Press, 1985, p. 175. On chapter 33 Olson comments: "Their forty-year trek comprises forty (sic!) stations... that can be subsumed under three main stages: *the wilderness of Sinai* (1,1-10,10), where preparations for the march are made; *the vicinity of Kadesh* (10,11-20,13), where the bulk of the forty years are spent; and *from Kadesh to the steppes of Moab* (20,14-36,13), where they prepare for the conquest of the promised land."

I have initially chosen this option, because it is partly underscored by numerical considerations, but this ultimately led to the insight that we have to abandon the idea of a tripartite structure. The logotechnical analysis of the book has brought to light that there is namely a very weighty caesura after 20,13. In search of the natural seams, and having considered several possible breaks, I came to the conclusion that the book has basically a *bipartite* structure, Segments **A** and **B**:

A 1,1-20,13 The March in the Wilderness until the Sojourn at Kadesh: **9418** (554x**17**) words

B 20,14-36,13 The Confrontation with the Nations around and in Canaan: **6994** (269x**26**) words.

This division can hardly be a matter of chance, for the two multiples of the divine name numbers **17** and **26** reinforce each other. The bipartite structure is firmly underscored by the fact that both Segments are concluded and rounded off by a **13**-verse passage: 20,1-13 and 36,1-13. See Observation 16 below.

Both Segments can be divided into two sections, which means that there is every reason for assuming a fourfold rather than a tripartite structure:

A1: 1,1-10,10 and **A2**: 10,11-20,13 and **B1**: 20,14-27,11 and **B2**: 27,12-36,13.

Surprisingly, when I analyzed Chapter 33, the list of the 41 stages of the march of the Israelites from Egypt to the frontiers of Canaan, it appeared that it also divides into two sections (indicated by an **S**), a striking parallel, which I regard as additional evidence in support of the proposed *bipartite* structure of the book. For particulars, see Observation 31 below.

The Compositional Structure of the Book of Numbers

Segment A1: 1,1-10,10 Preparations for the March in the Wilderness: 394 vss; 4911 words.

Part I 1,1-3,4 The Census and the Organization of Israel at Mount Sinai P: 92 vss; 982 words.

Part II 3,5-4,49 The Position and Duties of the Levites P: 96 vss; 1214 words.

Part III 5,1-6,27 Miscellaneous Laws and Regulations P: 58 vss; 822 words.

Part IV 7,1-8,9 The Offerings of the Tribal Chiefs P: 89 vss; 1071 (63x17) words.

Part V 8,1-26 The Duties of Aaron and the Levites P: 26 vss; 361 words; 1368 letters.

Part VI 9,1-14 The Celebration of a Supplementary Passover P: 14 vss; 208 (8x26) words.

Part VII 9,15-10,10 The Function of the Cloud and the Trumpets P: 19 v; 253 w; 1020 (60x17) lett.

A1 + A2 9418
554x17

Segment A2: 10,11-20,13 The March From Sinai to the Frontiers of Canaan: 326 vss; 4507 w.

Part I 10,11-12,16 The Departure and the First Leg of the March P: 77 vss; 1020 (60x17) words.

Part II 13,1-14,45 The Exploration of Canaan and its Unfortunate Aftermath P: 78 vss; 1029 words.

Part III 15,1-41 Various Laws and Regulations P: 41 vss; 511 words.

Part IV 16,1-17,28 Rebellion and the Vindication of the Authority of Moses S: 63 vss; 888 words.

Part V 18,1-32 The Duties of the Levites and the Dues Payable to Them P: 32 vss; 521 words.

Part VI 19,1-22 The Removal of Defilement Caused by the Dead P: 22 vss; 346 words.

Part VII 20,1-13 The Sojourn at Kadesh: Miriam's Death and the Rebellion S: 13 vss; 192 words.

Segment B1: 20,14-27,11 The Confrontation with the Hostile Nations: 242 vss; 3107 words.

Part I 20,14-29 The Confrontation with the Edomites and the Death of Aaron S: 16 vss; 226 words.

Part II 21,1-20 The Israelites Defeat a Canaanite King and Proceed to Pisgah P: 20 vss; 257 words.

Part III 21,21-22,1 The Israelites Defeat the Amorites and Occupy their Land S: 16 v; 224 w; 850 let.

Part IV 22,2-24,25 The Reaction of the Moabites and Midianites: Balak and Balaam P: 95 v; 1338 w.

Part V 25,1-19a How and Why the Israelites Committed Idolatry at Shittim P: 19 vss; 232 words.

Part VI 26,1-65 The Second Census S: 65 vss; 674 words.

Part VII 27,1-11 The Law of Succession to Landed Property S: 11 vss; 156 (6x26) words.

B1 + B2 6994
269x26

Segment B2: 27,12-36,13 Preparations for the Conquest of the Promised Land: 327 v; 3887 w.

Part I 27,12-23 Moses' Nearing Death: Joshua Appointed as his Successor P: 12 vss; 163 words.

Part II 28,1-30,1 Daily and Periodical Offerings P: 71 vss; 779 words.

Part III 30,2-17 The Validity of a Vow, Especially a Woman's Vow P: 16 vss; 252 words.

Part IV 31,1-54 Israel Exacts Vengeance on the Midianites P: 54 vss; 677 words.

Part V 32,1-42 The Allotment of Land East of the Jordan P: 42 vss; 555 words.

Part VI 33,1-49 The Stages in the March of the Israelites S: 49 vss; 355 words.

Part VII 33,50-35,34 Distribution of Canaan and the Setting Aside of Certain Cities P: 70 vs; 894 w.

Appendix 36,1-13 The Law Regulating the Marriage of Heiresses End: 13 vss; 212 words.

The division of Segment B2 into 7 Parts led to the conclusion that 36,1-13 must be an Appendix.

Having finished my analysis I found that P.J. Budd (1984) has also called 36,1-13 an Appendix. Ludwig Schmidt (ATD, 2004) rightly calls it a *Nachtrag*.

In addition to the decisive numerical evidence regarding the two Segments, which are defined by a weighty caesura after 20,13, there was another reason for my initial preference for Option e). In my opinion, the crucial turning point of the march in the storyline is not the arrival of the Israelites at Pisgah on the eastern border of Canaan (which is not a turning point but the *end* of their march) but their arrival at *Kadesh* situated at the edge of the *cultivated and inhabited* world and their inevitable contact with the settled nations living in and around Canaan. What makes Kadesh as a break in the march special is that the bulk of the forty years was spent there, and it is from Kadesh that Moses deliberately initiates contact with these nations by sending envoys to the king of Edom (20,14). This deed marks the beginning of a totally new phase in the march.

The profound divide is therefore *not* between the *Wilderness march* and the *sojourn in the Plains of Moab*, but between *the march through the uninhabited Wilderness*, on the one hand, and *the arrival in the region of Canaan, inhabited by other nations*, on the other. In other words, the First Segment of the book deals with the *Wilderness March*, while the Second Segment has as its main topic *Israel's encounter and dealings with the nations in the region of Canaan*. Their confrontation with these nations is a prelude on their conquest of Canaan and their settlement in the promised land.

An important conclusion based on the discovery of the bipartite structure is that *the book as a whole* is governed by the divine name numbers **17** and **26** (Segment **A** with its 554x**17** words and Segment **B** with its 269x**26** words). There is also abundant evidence showing that certain parts, sections, paragraphs, passages and verses are highlighted by multiples of **17** and **26** in order to direct special attention to them. In the Tables below the instances of occurrences of these numbers are to be found in the relevant columns. In order to save space I have left the summation of letters out of consideration, however, significant instances are duly noted.

The Masoretic layout markers **P** and **S**, as well as the 63 divine speeches (**DS**) are marked in Column 7.

To give some examples of the way the divine name numbers are used to finalize and seal a certain section of the text and to highlight it as of paramount importance, I may refer to the following cases: **Segment A1, Part IV: 7,1-89**, about the *Offerings of the Tribal Chiefs*, is not only positioned in pride of place at the centre of the first sevenfold structure: I, II, III + **IV** + V, VI, VII, but is also made up of **1071** (63x**17**) words. From a Levitical viewpoint, these offerings are crucial and indispensable.

Part V: 8,1-26, dealing with the *Duties of Aaron and the Levites* - which is very appropriate for Leviticus - is made up of **26** verses.

Part VI: 9,1-14, the *Celebration of a Supplementary Passover* before the March, has **208** (8x**26**) words.

Part VII: 9,15-10,10, about the *Function of the Cloud and the Trumpets*, has **1020** (60x**17**) letters.

Segm. A2, Part I: 10,11-12,16, the *Departure and the First Leg of the March*, has **1020** (60x**17**) words.

Part II: 13,1-14,45, about the *Exploration of Canaan and its Aftermath*, is made up of **78** (3x**26**) verses.

Within the 28 Parts and the Appendix a considerable number of passages are highlighted in this way, showing that a great part of the book (expressed as percentages) is focused on by **17** and **26**.

Statistical Overview of the Passages Highlighted by 17 and 26 in Percentages

A1, Part I: 1,1-3,4	45 of the 92 verses (49%) and 455 of the 982 words (46%)
A1, Part II: 3,5-4,49	51 of the 96 verses (53%) and 635 of the 1214 words (52%)
A1, Part III: 5,1-6,27	44 of the 58 verses (76%) and 642 of the 822 words (78%)
A1, Part IV: 7,1-89	1071 (63x 17) words; also 64 of the 89 verses (72%) and 709 of the 1071 words (66%)
A1, Part V: 8,1-26	26 of the 26 verses (100%) and 85 (5x 17) of the 361 words (24%)
A1, Part VI: 9,1-14	14 of the 14 verses (100%) and 208 (8x 26) of the 208 words (100%)
A1, Part VII: 9,15-10,10	18 of the 19 verses (95%) and 248 of the 253 words (98%); 1020 (6x 17) letters
A2, Part I: 10,11-12,16	1020 (60x 17) words; also 47 of the 77 verses (61%) and 632 of the 1020 words (62%)
A2, Part II: 13,1-14,45	78 (3x 26) verses; also 40 of the 78 verses (51%) and 447 of the 1029 words (43%)
A2, Part III: 15,1-41	26 of the 41 verses (63%) and 282 of the 511 words (65%)
A2, Part IV: 16,1-17,28	24 of the 63 verses (38%) and 359 of the 888 words (40%)
A2, Part V: 18,1-32	26 of the 32 verses (81%) and 435 of the 521 words (83%)
A2, Part VI: 19,1-22	17 of the 22 verses (77%) and 275 of the 346 words (80%)
A2, Part VII: 20,1-13	11 of the 13 verses (85%) and 156 (6x 26) of the 192 words (81%)
Total Segment A	491 of the 720 verses (68%) and 5568 of the 9418 (554x 17) words (59%)
B1, Part I: 20,14-29	6 of the 16 verses (38%) and 78 (3x 26) of the 226 words (35%)
B1, Part II: 21,1-20	17 of the 20 verses (85%) and 224 of the 257 words (87%)
B1, Part III: 21,21-22,1	13 of the 16 verses (81%) and 188 of the 224 words (84%); 850 (50x 17) letters
B1, Part IV: 22,2-24,25	46 of the 95 verses (48%) and 607 of the 1338 words (45%)
B1, Part V: 25,1-19a	16 of the 19 verses (84%) and 215 of the 232 words (93%)
B1, Part VI: 26,1-65	27 of the 65 verses (42%) and 308 of the 674 words (46%)
B1, Part VII: 27,1-11	11 of the 11 verses (100%) and 156 (6x 26) of the 156 words (100%)
B2, Part I: 27,12-23	2 of the 12 verses (17%) and 26 of the 163 words (16%)
B2, Part II: 28,1-30,1	27 of the 71 verses (38%) and 290 of the 779 words (37%)
B2, Part III: 30,2-17	9 of the 16 verses (56%) and 136 (8x 17) of the 252 words (54%)
B2, Part IV: 31,1-54	31 of the 54 verses (57%) and 442 (17x 26) of the 677 words (65%)
B2, Part V: 32,1-42	36 of the 42 verses (86%) and 492 of the 555 words (89%)
B2, Part VI: 33,1-49	38 of the 49 verses (78%) and 292 of the 355 words (82%)
B2, Part VII: 33,50-35,34	42 of the 70 verses (60%) and 589 of the 894 words (66%)
Appendix: 36,1-13	4 of the 13 verses (31%) and 68 of the 212 words (32%)
Total Segment B	325 of the 533 verses (61%) and 3819 of the 6994 (269x 26) words (55%)
Grand Total of the book	816 of the 1289 verses (63%) and 9387 of the 16412 words (57%)

Segment A1: 1,1-10,10 Preparations for the March in the Wilderness

Part I 1,1-3,4 The Census and the Organization of Israel at Mount Sinai

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	ידונה	Sum wrds	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 1,1-54						DS	YHWH Decrees a Census
1	Num 1,1	17	70	1	17	1	§ 1 The census is made by Moses
2	Num 1,2	15	57		32	104	The book opens with 17 words, in
3	Num 1,3	13	52		45	4x26	line with Genesis (52), Exodus (51)
4	Num 1,4	10	37		55		and Deuteronomy (78).
5	Num 1,5	10+	46		65		Vs 5-19: The overview of the names of
6	Num 1,6	4+	21		69		the heads of the clans is especially
7	Num 1,7	4+	19		73		highlighted by its 102 (6x17) words.
8	Num 1,8	4+	17		77		
9	Num 1,9	4=26+	16		81		
10	Num 1,10	10+	47		91		
11	Num 1,11	4+	18		95		
12	Num 1,12	4+	17		99		
13	Num 1,13	4+	16		103		
14	Num 1,14	4=26+	15		107		
15	Num 1,15	4+	17		111		
16	Num 1,16	10+	41		121		V. 16 is part of the divine speech.
17	Num 1,17	9+	36		130		Compare 4,33 and 27,11b.
18	Num 1,18	19+	82		149		
19	Num 1,19	8=102(6x17)	31	2	157/157	P	
20	Num 1,20	21	87		178		§ 2 The tribal list of Reuben
21	Num 1,21	8	36		186/29	P	46,500
22	Num 1,22	19	80		205		§ 3 The tribal list of Simeon
23	Num 1,23	8	36		213/27	P	59,300
24	Num 1,24	15	60		228		§ 4 The tribal list of Gad
25	Num 1,25	9	39		237/24	P	45,650
26	Num 1,26	15	62		252		§ 5 The tribal list of Judah
27	Num 1,27	8	36		260/23	P	74,600
28	Num 1,28	15	62		275		§ 6 The tribal list of Issachar
29	Num 1,29	8	38		283/23	P	54,400
30	Num 1,30	15	62		298		§ 7 The tribal list of Zebulon
31	Num 1,31	8	37		306/23	P	57,400
32	Num 1,32	17	70		323		§ 8 The tribal list of Ephraim
33	Num 1,33	7	32		330/24	P	40,500
34	Num 1,34	15	62		345		§ 9 The tribal list of Manasseh
35	Num 1,35	7	33		352/22	P	32,200
36	Num 1,36	15	62		367		§ 10 The tribal list of Benjamin
37	Num 1,37	8	37		375/22	P	35,400
38	Num 1,38	15	59		390		§ 11 The tribal list of Dan
39	Num 1,39	8	32		398/23	P	62,700
40	Num 1,40	15	60		413		§ 12 The tribal list of Asher
41	Num 1,41	8	34		421/23	P	41,500
42	Num 1,42	15	61		436		§ 13 The tribal list of Naphtali
43	Num 1,43	8	37		444/23	P	53,400
44	Num 1,44	16	62		460		§ 14 Total number of Israelites
45	Num 1,45	15+	58		475		Fit for service: 603,550 men
46	Num 1,46	11=26	46		486		aged twenty years and older: 26.

47	Num 1,47	6	27		492/48	P	
48	Num 1,48	5	18	3	497	2	§ 15 The position of the Levites
49	Num 1,49	13	40		510	80	
50	Num 1,50	26+	90		536		The Levites are to be put in
51	Num 1,51	13+	59		549		charge of the Tabernacle and
52	Num 1,52	10+	38		559		its equipment as attendants.
53	Num 1,53	18+	72		577		They are to encamp round the
54	Num 1,54	11=78(3x26)	36	4	588/96	P	Tabernacle of the Testimony: 78.
54 vss	Section 1 1,1-54	588	2415	4x	588		
Section 2 2,1-3,4				The Arrangement of the Camp			
55	Num 2,1	7+	25	5	595	3	§ 16 Round the Tent of Meeting
56	Num 2,2	14+	53		609	286	
57	Num 2,3	13+	60		622		
58	Num 2,4	7+	33		629		On the east Judah is stationed
59	Num 2,5	10=51(3x17)	43		639		in front of the Tent: 51.
60	Num 2,6	7	34		646/58	S	
61	Num 2,7	8	32		654		§ 17 The tribe of Zebulun
62	Num 2,8	7	33		661		
63	Num 2,9	15	66		676/30	S	
64	Num 2,10	11+	51		687		§ 18 To the south: Reuben
65	Num 2,11	7+	32		694		
66	Num 2,12	11+	47		705		Special attention is paid to the
67	Num 2,13	7+	33		712		division of Reuben: 52.
68	Num 2,14	8+	29		720		
69	Num 2,15	8=52(2x26)	39		728		
70	Num 2,16	15	67		743	S	This S directs attention to v. 17:
71	Num 2,17	15	58		758/82	S	The Levites march in the centre.
72	Num 2,18	11+	49		769		§ 19 To the west: Ephraim
73	Num 2,19	6=17	29		775		Next to him, Manasseh: 17.
74	Num 2,20	9	39		784		
75	Num 2,21	6	31		790		
76	Num 2,22	8	35		798		
77	Num 2,23	7	34		805		
78	Num 2,24	12	54		817/59	S	
79	Num 2,25	11	44		828		§ 20 To the north: Dan
80	Num 2,26	7	32		835		
81	Num 2,27	10+	40		845		Next to him, Asher: 17.
82	Num 2,28	7=17	33		852		
83	Num 2,29	8	34		860		
84	Num 2,30	7	34		867		
85	Num 2,31	14	59		881/64	P	
86	Num 2,32	18+	75		899		§ 21 All Israelites: 603,550
87	Num 2,33	11+	42	6	910		The Levites are not included in
88	Num 2,34	19+	71	7	929		the lists with other Israelites.
89	Num 3,1	11+	40	8	940		The names of the Levites at the
90	Num 3,2	9+	41		949		time YHWH spoke to Moses at
91	Num 3,3	10=78(3x26)	39		959		Mount Sinai : 78.
92	Num 3,4	23	93	9-10	982/101	P	
38 vss	Section 2 2,1-3,4	394	1683	6x	394		
92 vss	Part I 1,1-3,4	982	4098	10x	982		

Observation 1 45 of the 92 verses (49%) and 455 of the 982 words (46%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part II 3,5-4,49 The Position and Duties of the Levites

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
93	Num 3,5	5	18	11	987	4	§ 1 They minister to Aaron
94	Num 3,6	11	41		998	62	
95	Num 3,7	14+	53		1012		They are to serve him and to
96	Num 3,8	14+	50		1026		undertake the service of the
97	Num 3,9	12+	49		1038		Tabernacle and to be in charge
98	Num 3,10	11=51(3x17)	42		1049/67	P	of its equipment: 51.
99	Num 3,11	5	18	12	1054	5	§ 2 The Levites belong to YHWH
100	Num 3,12	18	66		1072	40	
101	Num 3,13	22	76	13	1094/45	S	
102	Num 3,14	7	27	14	1101	6	§ 3 The descendants of Levi
103	Num 3,15	13	47		1114	13	
104	Num 3,16	8	26	15	1122		
105	Num 3,17	8	33		1130		
106	Num 3,18	7+	32		1137		Vs 18-23 Special emphasis on the
107	Num 3,19	7+	34		1144		sons of Gershon, the eldest son of
108	Num 3,20	11+	46		1155		Levi: 52 words.
109	Num 3,21	9+	43		1164		
110	Num 3,22	12+	50		1176		
111	Num 3,23	6=52(2x26)	27		1182		
112	Num 3,24	7	26		1189		
113	Num 3,25	12	51		1201		
114	Num 3,26	16	61		1217		
115	Num 3,27	13+	68		1230		The families of Kohath: 26.
116	Num 3,28	13=26	50		1243		
117	Num 3,29	8	30		1251		
118	Num 3,30	8+	34		1259		
119	Num 3,31	13+	62		1272		They were in charge of the Ark,
120	Num 3,32	11+	46		1283		the Table, the Lampstand and
121	Num 3,33	9+	40		1292		the Alters, the Vessels, the
122	Num 3,34	10=51(3x17)	42		1302		Screen and everything needed
123	Num 3,35	13+	52		1315		for its maintenance. Eleazar is
124	Num 3,36	13=26+	60		1328		appointed as overseer. Merari's
125	Num 3,37	6+	34		1334		sons were in charge of the other
126	Num 3,38	20=52(2x26)	89		1354		utensils of the Tabernacle: 51 + 52.
127	Num 3,39	19	70	16	1373/301	S	
128	Num 3,40	4+13=17	58	17	1390	7	§ 4 Census of male firstborns: 17
129	Num 3,41	20	72	18	1410	33	
130	Num 3,42	11	38	19	1421		
131	Num 3,43	16	69		1437/64	P	
132	Num 3,44	5+	18	20	1442	8	§ 5 The cattle of the Levites
133	Num 3,45	18+	65	21	1460	47	The Levites as well as their
134	Num 3,46	11=34(2x17)	53		1471		cattle belong to YHWH: 34.
135	Num 3,47	11	47		1482		
136	Num 3,48	7+	34		1489		The money paid to redeem the
137	Num 3,49	10=17	39		1499		surplus animals goes to Aaron: 17.
138	Num 3,50	14	53		1513		
139	Num 3,51	15	52	22-23	1528/91	P	
140	Num 4,1	7	25	24	1535	9	§ 6 The duties of the Kohathites

141	Num 4,2	11+	39		1546	246	The census of the Kohathites: 26 .
142	Num 4,3	15=26	55		1561		
143	Num 4,4	8	30		1569		
144	Num 4,5	14+	52		1583		They are to cover the Ark, the
145	Num 4,6	12=26	49		1595		Table and the Bread and to put
146	Num 4,7	21+	84		1616		the poles in place: 26 + 34 .
147	Num 4,8	13=34(2x17)	49		1629		
148	Num 4,9	21	78		1650		
149	Num 4,10	12+	40		1662		They are to take care of all the
150	Num 4,11	14=26	51		1676		equipment of the Lampstand: 26 .
151	Num 4,12	21	74		1697		
152	Num 4,13	7	29		1704		
153	Num 4,14	27	101		1731		
154	Num 4,15	29	102		1760		
155	Num 4,16	21	86		1781/253	S	
156	Num 4,17	7	25	25	1788	10	§ 7 Care for the Kohathites
157	Num 4,18	8	32		1796	36	
158	Num 4,19	21	78		1817		
159	Num 4,20	7	26		1824/43	P	
160	Num 4,21	5	18	26	1829	11	§ 8 Duties of the Gershonites
161	Num 4,22	10+	35		1839	176	Their census and the services
162	Num 4,23	18+	64		1857		to be rendered by them: 34 .
163	Num 4,24	6=34(2x17)	27		1863		
164	Num 4,25	18	70		1881		
165	Num 4,26	26	92		1907		Special acts of service: 26 .
166	Num 4,27	19	72		1926		
167	Num 4,28	13	54		1939/115	P	
168	Num 4,29	7	29		1946		§ 9 Duties of the Merarites
169	Num 4,30	17	60		1963		A list of all Merarites: 17
170	Num 4,31	12	58		1975		
171	Num 4,32	16	76		1991		
172	Num 4,33	14	53		2005		V. 33 is part of the divine speech.
173	Num 4,34	11	49		2016		Compare 1,16 and 27,11b.
174	Num 4,35	14	51		2030		
175	Num 4,36	7	36		2037		
176	Num 4,37	17	60	27	2054/115	S	This list was recorded by Moses: 17
177	Num 4,38	6+	31		2060		§ 10 All the Levites listed
178	Num 4,39	14+	51		2074		Special attention is paid to the
179	Num 4,40	9+	44		2083		Gershonites who were to serve
180	Num 4,41	16+	57	28	2099		in the Tent of Meeting: 52 .
181	Num 4,42	7=52(2x26)	33		2106		
182	Num 4,43	14+	51		2120		The Merarite families listed: 34 .
183	Num 4,44	6+	33		2126		
184	Num 4,45	14=34(2x17)	48	29	2140		
185	Num 4,46	13	56		2153		Concluding statement: 17+26 w .
186	Num 4,47	17	62		2170		Moses carried out all YHWH's
187	Num 4,48	7+	34		2177		commands in regards the lists
188	Num 4,49	19=26	62	30-31	2196/142	P	of the Levites and their duties.
96 vss	Part II 3,5-4,49	1214	4762	21x	1214		

Observation 2 51 of the 96 verses (53%) and 635 of the 1214 words (52%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**.

Part III 5,1-6,27 Miscellaneous Laws and Regulations

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 5,1-31						DS	Various laws
189	Num 5,1	5	18	32	2201	12	§ 1 Unclean persons expelled
190	Num 5,2	14	46		2215	30	
191	Num 5,3	16+	62		2231		Highlighted by 34 (2x17) words.
192	Num 5,4	18=34(2x17)	65	33	2249/53	P	
193	Num 5,5	5+	18	34	2254	13	§ 2 A reparation-gift is the priest's
194	Num 5,6	18+	63	35	2272	74	
195	Num 5,7	16+	62		2288		Highlighted by 68 (4x17) words.
196	Num 5,8	18+	70	36	2306		
197	Num 5,9	11=68(4x17)	42		2317		
198	Num 5,10	11	36		2328/79	P	
199	Num 5,11	5+	18	37	2333	14	§ 3 The ordeal of jealousy
200	Num 5,12	14+	48		2347	325	
201	Num 5,13	17+	65		2364		
202	Num 5,14	20+	71		2384		
203	Num 5,15	30+	111		2414		
204	Num 5,16	6+	27	38	2420		
205	Num 5,17	17+	64		2437		
206	Num 5,18	25+	96	39	2462		
207	Num 5,19	22=156(6x26)	79		2484		Vs 11-26 are highlighted by 156
208	Num 5,20	14+	50		2498		(6x26), 51 (3x17) and 52 (2x26) w.
209	Num 5,21	24+	92	40-41	2522		
210	Num 5,22	13=51(3x17)	55		2535		
211	Num 5,23	10	35		2545		
212	Num 5,24	12+	49		2557		
213	Num 5,25	16+	62	42	2573		
214	Num 5,26	14=52(2x26)	55		2587		
215	Num 5,27	23	96		2610		
216	Num 5,28	9	36		2619		
217	Num 5,29	9	35		2628		
218	Num 5,30	22	76	43	2650		
219	Num 5,31	8	30		2658/330	P	
31 vss	Section 1 5,1-31	462	1732	12x	462		
Section 2 6,1-21							
220	Num 6,1	5+	18	44	2663	15	§ 4 The law of the Nazarite
221	Num 6,2	16+	57	45	2679	314	
222	Num 6,3	19+	71		2698		Vs. 1-6 are highlighted by
223	Num 6,4	13+	45		2711		102 (6x17) words.
224	Num 6,5	21+	69	46	2732		
225	Num 6,6	9+	27	47	2741		
226	Num 6,7	13+	50		2754		
227	Num 6,8	6=102(6x17)	20	48	2760		
228	Num 6,9	16+	65		2776		Vs 9-21 are highlighted by
229	Num 6,10	15+	51		2791		153 (9x17) words.
230	Num 6,11	17+	63		2808		
231	Num 6,12	16+	63	49	2824		
232	Num 6,13	13+	47		2837		
233	Num 6,14	20+	79	50	2857		

234	Num 6,15	12+	54		2869		
235	Num 6,16	9+	36	51	2878		
236	Num 6,17	15+	55	52	2893		
237	Num 6,18	20=153(9x17)	68		2913		
238	Num 6,19	23	79		2936		
239	Num 6,20	19	75	53	2955		
240	Num 6,21	22	77	54	2977/319	P	
21 vss	Section 2 6,1-21	319	1169	11x	319		
Section 3 6,22-27							
241	Num 6,22	5+	18	55	2982	16	§ 5 The priestly blessing
242	Num 6,23	13+	44		2995	S	36 words
243	Num 6,24	3+	15	56	2998	S	Highlighted by 26 words.
244	Num 6,25	5=26	20	57	3003	S	
245	Num 6,26	7	25	58	3010	S	
246	Num 6,27	8	28		3018/41	P	
6 vss	Section 3 6,22-27	41	150	4x	41		
58 vss	Part III 5,1-6,27	822	3051	27x	822		

Observation 3 In Part III 44 of the 58 verses (76%) and 642 of the 822 words (78%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. For my earlier article (2008) on the positioning of the priestly blessing in its context based on the stereotyped introductory formulae, see <http://www.labuschagne.nl/4.num6.pdf>. The two approaches need not exclude each other, for the two structures can overlies each other in the same way as in the case of the book of [Leviticus](#), where the DS-structure overlies the general heptadic architecture.

Part IV 7,1-89 The Offerings of the Tribal Chiefs

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יְהוָה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
247	Num 7,1	22	83		3040	DS	§ 1 The offerings of the tribal chiefs
248	Num 7,2	13+	55		3053		
249	Num 7,3	21=34(2x17)	82	59	3074		86 of the 152 words are highlighted
250	Num 7,4	5	18	60	3079	17	
251	Num 7,5	15+	54		3094	15	YHWH's order given to Moses to give
252	Num 7,6	10+	36		3104		the wagons and oxen to the Levites
253	Num 7,7	11+	42		3115		for the Tent of Meeting, as well as its
254	Num 7,8	16=52(2x26)	60		3131		execution, is highlighted: 52 words.
255	Num 7,9	10	35		3141		
256	Num 7,10	14	64		3155		
257	Num 7,11	4+11=15+	59	61	3170/152	18 s	
258	Num 7,12	11+	49		3181	11	§ 2 On the 1 st day: Judah
259	Num 7,13	20+	83		3201		The entire paragraph dealing with
260	Num 7,14	6+	20		3207		Judah's offerings is highlighted:
261	Num 7,15	11+	32		3218		52 and 17 words. No wonder that
262	Num 7,16	4=52(2x26)	16		3222		his gifts are also mentioned first!
263	Num 7,17	17	70		3239/69	P	
264	Num 7,18	8+	33		3247		§ 3 On the 2 nd day: Issachar
265	Num 7,19	22+	88		3269		
266	Num 7,20	6+	20		3275		68 of the 68 words are highlighted.
267	Num 7,21	11+	32		3286		
268	Num 7,22	4+	16		3290		
269	Num 7,23	17=68(4x17)	68		3307/68	P	
270	Num 7,24	8+	33		3315		§ 4 On the 3 rd day: Zebulon

271	Num 7,25	20+	82		3335		
272	Num 7,26	6=34(2x17)	20		3341		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
273	Num 7,27	11	32		3352		
274	Num 7,28	4	16		3356		
275	Num 7,29	17	66		3373/66	P	
276	Num 7,30	8+	37		3381		§ 5 On the 4 th day: Reuben
277	Num 7,31	20+	82		3401		
278	Num 7,32	6=34(2x17)	20		3407		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
279	Num 7,33	11	32		3418		
280	Num 7,34	4	16		3422		
281	Num 7,35	17	70		3439/66	P	
282	Num 7,36	8+	38		3447		§ 6 On the 5 th day: Simeon
283	Num 7,37	20+	82		3467		
284	Num 7,38	6=34(2x17)	20		3473		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
285	Num 7,39	11	32		3484		
286	Num 7,40	4	16		3488		
287	Num 7,41	17	71		3505/66	P	
288	Num 7,42	8+	30		3513		§ 7 On the 6 th day: Gad
289	Num 7,43	20+	82		3533		
290	Num 7,44	6=34(2x17)	20		3539		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
291	Num 7,45	11	32		3550		
292	Num 7,46	4	16		3554		
293	Num 7,47	17	68		3571/66	P	
294	Num 7,48	8+	37		3579		§ 8 On the 7 th day: Ephraim
295	Num 7,49	20+	82		3599		
296	Num 7,50	6=34(2x17)	20		3605		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
297	Num 7,51	11	32		3616		
298	Num 7,52	4	16		3620		
299	Num 7,53	17	70		3637/66	P	
300	Num 7,54	9	36		3646		§9 On the 8 th day: Manasseh
301	Num 7,55	20+	82		3666		
302	Num 7,56	6=26	20		3672		43 of the 67 words are highlighted.
303	Num 7,57	11	32		3683		
304	Num 7,58	4	16		3687		
305	Num 7,59	17	70		3704/67	P	
306	Num 7,60	8+	35		3712		§ 10 On the 9 th day: Benjamin
307	Num 7,61	20+	82		3732		
308	Num 7,62	6=34(2x17)	20		3738		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
309	Num 7,63	11	32		3749		
310	Num 7,64	4	16		3753		
311	Num 7,65	17	68		3770/66	P	
312	Num 7,66	8+	34		3778		§ 11 On the 10 th day: Dan
313	Num 7,67	20+	82		3798		
314	Num 7,68	6=34(2x17)	20		3804		51 of the 66 words are highlighted.
315	Num 7,69	11	32		3815		
316	Num 7,70	4	16		3819		
317	Num 7,71	17	70		3836/66	P	
318	Num 7,72	10+	37		3846		§ 12 On the 11 th day: Asher
319	Num 7,73	20+	82		3866		
320	Num 7,74	6+	20		3872		68 of the 68 words are highlighted.
321	Num 7,75	11+	32		3883		

322	Num 7,76	4+	16		3887		
323	Num 7,77	17=68(4x17)	68		3904/68	P	
324	Num 7,78	10+	38		3914		§ 13 On the 12 th day: Naphtali
325	Num 7,79	20+	82		3934		
326	Num 7,80	6+	20		3940		68 of the 68 words are highlighted.
327	Num 7,81	11+	32		3951		
328	Num 7,82	4+	16		3955		
329	Num 7,83	17=68(4x17)	67		3972/68	P	
330	Num 7,84	21	81		3993		§ 14 Overview of the contributions
331	Num 7,85	16+	68		4009		Special attention is paid to the
332	Num 7,86	16+	61		4025		silver and golden vessels, and to the
333	Num 7,87	20=52(2x26)	78		4045		beasts for the whole-offering: 52.
334	Num 7,88	21	85		4066		
335	Num 7,89	23	84		4089/117	P	
89 vss	Part IV 7,1-89	1071(63x17)	4115	3x	1071		

Observation 4 Part IV as a whole is governed by the numer 17 through its 1071 (63x17) words. Additionally, 64 of the 89 verses (72%) and 709 of the 1071 words (66%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part V 8,1-26 The Duties of Aaron and the Levites

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
336	Num 8,1	5+	18	62	4094	19	§ 1 Moses installs the Lampstand
337	Num 8,2	15+	58		4109	15	The installation is additionally
338	Num 8,3	14=34(2x17)	49	63	4123		highlighted: 34 words.
339	Num 8,4	21	71	64	4144/55	P	
340	Num 8,5	5	18	65	4149	20	§ 2 The dedication of the Levites
341	Num 8,6	8	29		4157	202	
342	Num 8,7	16	64		4173		For the highlighting of the entire
343	Num 8,8	14	49		4187		passage, see Observation 5 below.
344	Num 8,9	12	45		4199		
345	Num 8,10	12	48	66	4211		
346	Num 8,11	15	58	67-68	4226		
347	Num 8,12	18	68	69	4244		
348	Num 8,13	11	48	70	4255		
349	Num 8,14	9	36		4264		
350	Num 8,15	13	50		4277		
351	Num 8,16	19	66		4296		
352	Num 8,17	17	63		4313		All firstborns belong to YHWH: 17
353	Num 8,18	8	29		4321		
354	Num 8,19	30	118		4351		
355	Num 8,20	20+	70	71	4371		Moses and Aaron and the Israelites
356	Num 8,21	14=34(2x17)	67	72	4385		carry out all God's commands:34.
357	Num 8,22	23	82	73	4408/264	S	
358	Num 8,23	5	18	74	4413	21	§ 3 Active service: from age of 25-50
359	Num 8,24	14	54		4427	37	
360	Num 8,25	9	35		4436		
361	Num 8,26	14	57		4450/42	P	
26 vss	Part V 8,1-26	361	1368	13x	361		

Observation 5 26 of the 26 verses (100%); additionally 85 (5x17) of the 361 words (24%).

Part VI 9,1-14 The Celebration of a Supplementary Passover

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
362	Num 9,1	14+	60	75	4464	22	§ 1 Moses is ordered to prepare the feast
363	Num 9,2	6+	25		4470	22	
364	Num 9,3	16+	66		4486		The entire paragraph is highlighted.
365	Num 9,4	7+	26		4493		
366	Num 9,5	22+	82	76	4515		
367	Num 9,6	20+	80		4535		
368	Num 9,7	19+	80	77	4554		
369	Num 9,8	9+	35	78	4563/113	P	
370	Num 9,9	5+	18	79	4568	23	§ 2 Regulation in case of defilement
371	Num 9,10	20+	70	80	4588	90	
372	Num 9,11	13+	54		4601		The entire paragraph is highlighted.
373	Num 9,12	14+	47		4615		
374	Num 9,13	24+	94	81	4639		
375	Num 9,14	19=	73	82	4658/95	P	
14 vss	Part V 9,1-14	208(8x26)	810	8x	208(8x26)		

Observation 6 Part V in its entirety is governed by the divine name number **26** by its **208 (8x26)** words.

Part VII 9,15-10,10 The Function of the Cloud and the Trumpets

376	Num 9,15	18+	66		4676		§ 1 The function of the Cloud
377	Num 9,16	8=26	30		4684		
378	Num 9,17	19+	71		4703		The entire paragraph is highlighted:
379	Num 9,18	18+	60	83-84	4721		26 + 51 + 52 + 17 = 146 words.
380	Num 9,19	14=51(3x17)	57	85	4735		
381	Num 9,20	16+	54	86-87	4751		
382	Num 9,21	17+	66		4768		
383	Num 9,22	19=52(2x26)	72		4787		
384	Num 9,23	17	54	88-91	4804/146	P	
385	Num 10,1	5	18	92	4809	24	§ 2 The function of the Trumpets
386	Num 10,2	15+	56		4824	102	
387	Num 10,3	10+	36		4834		Vs 2-10 YHWH's speech is made up of
388	Num 10,4	9=34(2x17)+	42		4843		102 (6x17) words.
389	Num 10,5	6+	31		4849		
390	Num 10,6	10+	53		4859		
391	Num 10,7	6+	26		4865		
392	Num 10,8	10+	48		4875		
393	Num 10,9	16+	79	93	4891		
394	Num 10,10	20=102(6x17)	101	94	4911/107	P	
19 vss	Part VII 9,15-10,10	253	1020	20x	253		
394 vss	Seg. A1: 1,1-10,10	4911	19224	94x	4911		

Observation 7 In Part VII 18 of the 19 verses (95%) and 248 of the 253 words (98%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. Moreover, Part VII as a whole has been finalized and sealed with its **1020 (60x17)** letters.

The 24 Divine Speeches in Segment A1: 1,1-10,10

Number	Text	Introduction	Speeches	Total
1	1,1-16	17+	104 (4x26)	121
2	1,48-53	5+	80	85 (5x17)
3	2,1-31	7+	286 (11x26)	293
4	3,5-10	5+	62+	67
5	3,11-13	5+	40=102 (6x17)	45
6	3,14-15	4+	13	17
7	3,40-41	4 (ויאמר)+	33	37
8	3,44-48	5=52 (2x26)	47	52 (2x26)
9	4,1-16	7+	246	253
10	4,17-20	7+	36	43
11	4,21-33	5+	176	181
12	5,1-3	5+	30+	35
13	5,5-10	5+	74=104 (4x26)	79
14	5,11-31	5+	325	330
15	6,1-21	5+	314	319
16	6,22-27	5+	36	41
17	7,4-5	5 (ויאמר)+	15+	20
18	7,11	4 (ויאמר)+	11=26+	15
19	8,1-2	5+	15+	20
20	8,5-19	5+	202+	207
21	8,23-26	5=68 (4x17)	37+	42
22	9,1-3	14	22+	36
23	9,9-14	5	90+	95
24	10,1-10	5	102(6x17)=494(19x26)	107
24 DSS		144	2396	2540

Observation 8 Several of the 24 divine speeches are specifically highlighted by multiples of 17 or 26 words:

Speech 1 104 (4x26) words and 17 in its introduction.

Speech 2 85 (5x17) words, including its introduction.

Speech 3 286 (11x26) words.

Speeches 4-5 102 (6x17) words.

Speeches 1-5 572 (22x26) words.

Speech 6 17 words, including its introduction.

Speech 8 52 (2x26) words, including its introduction.

Speeches 1-8 52 (2x26) words in their introductions.

Speeches 12-13 104 (4x26) words.

Speeches 17-18 26 words.

Speeches 17-21 68 (4x17) words in their introductions.

Speech 24 102 (6x17) words.

Speeches 17-24 494 (19x26) words.

There are only two speeches by humans: 15 words by the people (9,7) and 6 words by Moses (9,8).

Segment A2: 10,11-20,13 From Sinai to the Frontiers of Canaan

Part I 10,11-12,16 The Departure and the First Leg of the March

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum wds.	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 10,11-36						DS	The Departure from Mount Sinai
395	Num 10,11	12	50		4923		§ 1 The Cloud leads the way
396	Num 10,12	10+	47		4933		The Israelites move by stages until
397	Num 10,13	7=17	25	95	4940		the Cloud reaches the Wilderness
398	Num 10,14	12	51		4952		of Paran: their first stage: 17.
399	Num 10,15	8	28		4960		
400	Num 10,16	8+	28		4968		The host of Zebulun under Eliab:
401	Num 10,17	9=17	40		4977/66	S	The Tabernacle is taken down.
402	Num 10,18	10	43		4987		§ 2 The second group moves on
403	Num 10,19	9+	32		4996		The host of Simeon under Shelumiel;
404	Num 10,20	8=17	26		5004		the host of Gad under Eliasaph.
405	Num 10,21	9	38		5013/36	S	
406	Num 10,22	11	46		5024		§ 3 The third group moves on
407	Num 10,23	8	30		5032		
408	Num 10,24	8	30		5040/27	S	
409	Num 10,25	15	55		5055		§ 4 The last group moves on
410	Num 10,26	8	27		5063		
411	Num 10,27	8	28		5071		
412	Num 10,28	6	26		5077/37	S	
413	Num 10,29	28	101	96-97	5105		§ 5 Moses invites his brother-in-law
414	Num 10,30	11	36		5116		
415	Num 10,31	14	51		5130		
416	Num 10,32	13	49	98	5143		
417	Num 10,33	17	68	99-100	5160		The Ark moves three days ahead.
418	Num 10,34	7+	29	101	5167/90	S ן	This S draws attention to vs 35-36:
419	Num 10,35	12+	54	102	5179		Moses gives directions to the Ark:
420	Num 10,36	7=26	31	103	5186/19	P ן	"Arise, YHWH....Rest, YHWH..."
26 vss	Section 1 10,11-36	275	1069	9x	275		
Section 2 11,1-35							Complaints about Food
421	Num 11,1	17	69	104-106	5203		§ 6 The Israelites begin to complain
422	Num 11,2	10+	36	107	5213		
423	Num 11,3	10+	35	108	5223		
424	Num 11,4	14+	61		5237		Highlighted by 85 (5x 17) words.
425	Num 11,5	17+ "17+	71		5254		Special emphasis on the way they
426	Num 11,6	9+ 9=26"	33		5263		compare the manna with Egypt's fish.
427	Num 11,7	7+	27		5270		
428	Num 11,8	18=85(5x17)	71		5288		
429	Num 11,9	8	29		5296		
430	Num 11,10	16	59	109	5312		
431	Num 11,11	19+	64	110	5331		Moses' prayer of complaint to God.
432	Num 11,12	24+	89		5355		Highlighted by 85 (5x 17) words.
433	Num 11,13	15+	49		5370		
434	Num 11,14	12+	37		5382		

435	Num 11,15	15=85(5x17)	50		5397/211	P	
436	Num 11,16	4+21=25+	91	111	5422	1	§ 7 YHWH's reaction to his complaint
437	Num 11,17	19+	74		5441	103	He will bestow part of Moses'spirit on
438	Num 11,18	24=68(4x17)	94	112-113	5465		the seventy men and provide meat: 68.
439	Num 11,19	15	55		5480		
440	Num 11,20	24	88	114	5504		
441	Num 11,21	18	65		5522		
442	Num 11,22	15	48		5537/140	P	
443	Num 11,23	13+	45	115-116	5550	2	§ 8 YHWH bestowes part of Moses'
444	Num 11,24	17+	65	117	5567	9	spirit on the seventy elders.
445	Num 11,25	22=52(2x26)	90	118	5589		Highlighted by 52 (2x26) words.
446	Num 11,26	20	87		5609		
447	Num 11,27	9+	42		5618		Eldad and Medad seized by ecstasy.
448	Num 11,28	11+	43		5629		
449	Num 11,29	18+	60	119-120	5647		Highlighted by 68 (4x17) words.
450	Num 11,30	7+	28		5654		
451	Num 11,31	23=68(4x17)	85	121	5677		
452	Num 11,32	22+	90		5699		The plague because of the quails.
453	Num 11,33	16+	56	122-123	5715		Highlighted by 51 (3x17) words.
454	Num 11,34	13=51(3x17)	48		5728		
455	Num 11,35	7	34		5735/198	P	
35 vss	Section 2 11,1-35	549	2068	20x	549		
Section 3 12,1-16				Moses Meets with Criticism			
456	Num 12,1	14+	51		5749		§ 9 Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses
457	Num 12,2	12=26	42	124-125	5761		
458	Num 12,3	10+	34		5771/36	S	
459	Num 12,4	9+5+2=16=26	60	126	5787	3	§ 10 YHWH summons them
460	Num 12,5	12+	52	127	5799	5	He rebukes them for having spoken
461	Num 12,6	1+13=14+	56	128	5813	4	against Moses, for Moses, and he
462	Num 12,7	8+	25		5821	38	alone, is YHWH's spokesman.
463	Num 12,8	17=51(3x17)	63	129	5838		§§ 9f. highlighted by 26+26+51 words.
464	Num 12,9	5	16	130	5843		
465	Num 12,10	14	54		5857		
466	Num 12,11	15+	54		5872		Aaron's reaction to Miriam's disease.
467	Num 12,12	11=26	37		5883		Highlighted by 26 words.
468	Num 12,13	10	29	131	5893/122	P	
469	Num 12,14	4+15=19	74	132	5912	5	§ 11 YHWH's reaction to her disease
470	Num 12,15	12	45		5924	15	§§ 7-11 170 words spoken by God.
471	Num 12,16	7	31		5931/38	P	
16 vss	Section 3 12,1-16	196	723	9x	196		
51 vss	Secs. 2-3 11,1-12,16	745	2791	29x	745		
77 vss	Part I 10,11-12,16	1020(60x17)	3860	38x	1020(60x17)		

Observation 9 Part I as a whole is governed by 17 by having 1020 (60x17) words. In addition to that, no less than 47 of the 77 verses (61%) and 632 of the 1020 words (62%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Moreover, the five divine speeches have altogether 170 words (103+9+5+38+15).

Part II 13,1-14,45 The Exploration of Canaan and its Unfortunate Aftermath

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum wrds	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 13,1-14,25						DS	The Exploration of Canaan
472	Num 13,1	5	18	133	5936	6	§ 1 The spies explore and report
473	Num 13,2	22	77		5958	22	
474	Num 13,3	14+	51	134	5972		13,3-15, The names of the men
475	Num 13,4	7+	28		5979		chosen from the twelve tribes to
476	Num 13,5	5+	18		5984		be sent out to explore the land are
477	Num 13,6	5+	18		5989		highlighted by 78 (3x26) words.
478	Num 13,7	5+	19		5994		
479	Num 13,8	5+	18		5999		
480	Num 13,9	5+	19		6004		
481	Num 13,10	5+	20		6009		
482	Num 13,11	7+	25		6016		
483	Num 13,12	5+	17		6021		
484	Num 13,13	5+	18		6026		
485	Num 13,14	5+	19		6031		
486	Num 13,15	5=78(3x26)	16		6036		
487	Num 13,16	15	55		6051		
488	Num 13,17	15	53		6066		
489	Num 13,18	16	53		6082		
490	Num 13,19	19	69		6101		
491	Num 13,20	19	73		6120		
492	Num 13,21	10	34		6130		
493	Num 13,22	18	75		6148		
494	Num 13,23	17	75		6165		They pick some fruit to show: 17.
495	Num 13,24	13	50		6178		
496	Num 13,25	6	25		6184		
497	Num 13,26	25	89		6209		
498	Num 13,27	15	56		6224		
499	Num 13,28	15	54		6239		
500	Num 13,29	16	66		6255		
501	Num 13,30	15	50		6270		
502	Num 13,31	14	48		6284		
503	Num 13,32	27	101		6311		
504	Num 13,33	14	63		6325		
505	Num 14,1	10	38		6335		
506	Num 14,2	21	74		6356		
507	Num 14,3	18	70	135	6374		
508	Num 14,4	8	34		6382		
509	Num 14,5	11	39		6393		
510	Num 14,6	12	44		6405		
511	Num 14,7	17	60		6422		Joshua and Caleb warn the people
512	Num 14,8	17+	58	136	6439		not to act in defiance of YHWH,
513	Num 14,9	20+	69	137-138	6459		they need not fear these nations;
514	Num 14,10	15=52(2x26)	59	139	6474/543	P	YHWH will be with them: 17+52.
515	Num 14,11	4+15=19	68	140	6493	7	§ 2 Disputes and God's punishment
516	Num 14,12	9	40		6502	24	
517	Num 14,13	13	48	141	6515		
518	Num 14,14	30	111	142-143	6545		

519	Num 14,15	13	47		6558		
520	Num 14,16	14	53	144	6572		
521	Num 14,17	8	28		6580		
522	Num 14,18	20+	68	145	6600		Moses' passionate plea for his
523	Num 14,19	14=34(2x17)	51		6614		people: may God forgive them: 34 .
524	Num 14,20	2+2=4	19	146	6618	8	
525	Num 14,21	9	31	147	6627	71	
526	Num 14,22	20	78		6647		
527	Num 14,23	11	41		6658		
528	Num 14,24	17	67		6675		YHWH's promise to Caleb: 17 .
529	Num 14,25	12	48		6687/213	P	
58 vss	Section 1 13,1-14,25	756	2813	15x	756		
	Section 2 14,26-45						The Unfortunate Aftermath
530	Num 14,26	7	25	148	6694	9	§ 3 God's judgement and its effect
531	Num 14,27	18	67		6712	136	
532	Num 14,28	14	46	149	6726	8x17	
533	Num 14,29	15	64		6741		
534	Num 14,30	20	62		6761		
535	Num 14,31	13+	51		6774		Vs 31-34, YHWH's resolve to bar
536	Num 14,32	5+	22		6779		the old generation from entering
537	Num 14,33	13+	57		6792		the promised land: they will all die
538	Num 14,34	20=51(3x17)	82		6812		in the Wilderness: 51 .
539	Num 14,35	18	67	150	6830		
540	Num 14,36	17+	64		6847		Vs 36-45, The futile attempt of the
541	Num 14,37	9+	39	151	6856		Israelites to conquer Canaan on
542	Num 14,38	14+	51		6870		their own. Despite Moses' warning
543	Num 14,39	12+	45		6882		not to engage in war with the Ama-
544	Num 14,40	16+	61	152	6898		lekites and Canaanites, they set out
545	Num 14,41	12+	39	153	6910		and are crushingly defeated by
546	Num 14,42	10+	39	154	6920		their enemies at Hormah: 130 .
547	Num 14,43	17+	67	155-156	6937		
548	Num 14,44	13+	50	157	6950		
549	Num 14,45	10=130(5x26)	46		6960/273	P	
20 vss	Section 2 14,26-45	273	1044	10x	273		
78 vss	Part II 13,1-14,45	1029	3857	25x	1029		

Observation 10 Part II has been finalized and sealed as a distinct literary unit by its **78 (3x26)** verses. Moreover, 40 of the 78 verses (51%) and 447 of the 1029 words (43%) are additionally highlighted by the divine name numbers **17** and **26**. To crown it all, the 33rd divine speech is made up of **136 (8x17)** words.

Part III 15,1-41 Various Laws and Regulations

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יְהוָה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
550	Num 15,1	5	18	158	6965	10	§ 1 Food-offerings and libations
551	Num 15,2	15	53		6980	180	
552	Num 15,3	21	76	159-160	7001		
553	Num 15,4	11	51	161	7012		
554	Num 15,5	11	42		7023		
555	Num 15,6	11	44		7034		
556	Num 15,7	8	34	162	7042		
557	Num 15,8	12+	39	163	7054		Specifications in regards the
558	Num 15,9	12+	46		7066		offering of a bull or ram, lamb or
559	Num 15,10	9+	35	164	7075		kid. All native Israelites must
560	Num 15,11	12+	43		7087		observe these regulations, what-
561	Num 15,12	7=52(2x26)	29		7094		ever the number of offerings: 52.
562	Num 15,13	11+	40	165	7105		This also applies to permanently
563	Num 15,14	17+	64	166	7122		settled aliens among them.
564	Num 15,15	14+	52	167	7136		There must be one law and one
565	Num 15,16	9=51(3x17)	33		7145/185	P	custom for all residents: 51.
566	Num 15,17	5+	18	168	7150	11	§ 2 The bread-offerings
567	Num 15,18	14+	50		7164	190	This concerns the firstlings of
568	Num 15,19	7=26	33	169	7171		the bread of the country: 26.
569	Num 15,20	10	43		7181		
570	Num 15,21	6	34	170	7187/42	S	
571	Num 15,22	13+	42	171	7200		§ 3 Propitiation for certain sins
572	Num 15,23	15+	53	172-173	7215		This paragraph deals with sins
573	Num 15,24	24+	94	174	7239		committed inadvertently by the
574	Num 15,25	23+	84	175-176	7262		community, while § 4 is about
575	Num 15,26	12+	44		7274/87	S	sins committed by individuals.
576	Num 15,27	10+	38		7284		§ 4 Sins committed by individuals
577	Num 15,28	13+	52	177	7297		There should be one law for
578	Num 15,29	12+	49		7309		Israelites and aliens: Whoever
579	Num 15,30	18+	65	178	7327		sins presumptuously should be
580	Num 15,31	13=153(9x17)	45	179	7340/66	P	cut off from his kinsfolk: 153.
581	Num 15,32	10	43		7350		§ 5 The Sabbath-breaker killed
582	Num 15,33	13+	48		7363		The man is brought before
583	Num 15,34	9+	29		7372	S	Moses and Aaron and the
584	Num 15,35	4+10=14+	53	180	7386	12	community and put to death by
585	Num 15,36	16=52(2x26)	61	181	7402/62	10 P	order of YHWH: 52.
586	Num 15,37	5	18	182	7407	13	§ 6 The tassels on the garments
587	Num 15,38	19	73		7426	64	
588	Num 15,39	22	91	183	7448		
589	Num 15,40	9	42		7457		
590	Num 15,41	14	62	184-185	7471/69	P	
41 vss	Part III 15,1-41	511	1963	28x	511		

Observation 11 26 of the 41 verses (63%) and 282 of the 511 words (65%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part IV 16,1-17,28 Rebellion and the Vindication of the Authority of Moses and Aaron

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יְהוָה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1						DS	Korach, Dathan and Abiram
591	Num 16,1	17+	58		7488		§ 1 A Levite, two Reubenites
592	Num 16,2	14+	60		7502		and 250 chiefs criticize Moses
593	Num 16,3	21=52(2x26)	79	186-187	7523		He appears to be an autocrat.
594	Num 16,4	5	18		7528		
595	Num 16,5	23+	80	188	7551		Moses tells them that YHWH will
596	Num 16,6	8+	27		7559		decide who represents him: 51.
597	Num 16,7	20=51(3x17)	72	189-190	7579		
598	Num 16,8	8	25		7587		
599	Num 16,9	21	86	191	7608		
600	Num 16,10	11	38		7619		
601	Num 16,11	13	46	192	7632		
602	Num 16,12	10	43		7642		
603	Num 16,13	14	58		7656		
604	Num 16,14	19	68		7675		
605	Num 16,15	20+	67	193	7695		Moses becomes very angry and
606	Num 16,16	14=34(2x17)	48	194	7709		appeals to God: 34.
607	Num 16,17	18	81	195	7727		
608	Num 16,18	15	65		7742		
609	Num 16,19	16	53	196	7758/287	P	
610	Num 16,20	7	25	197	7765	14	§ 2 YHWH's decision
611	Num 16,21	7	29		7772	7	
612	Num 16,22	16	59		7788/30	P	
613	Num 16,23	5	18	198	7793	15	§ 3 Moses and Aaron protest
614	Num 16,24	10	39		7803	10	
615	Num 16,25	10	41		7813		
616	Num 16,26	20	74		7833		
617	Num 16,27	16	73		7849		
618	Num 16,28	15	55	199	7864		
619	Num 16,29	14	51	200	7878		
620	Num 16,30	24	91	201-202	7902		
621	Num 16,31	11+	46		7913		The ground splits apart under the
622	Num 16,32	16+	56		7929		followers of Korach and all their
623	Num 16,33	13+	51		7942		property: they go down into Sheol
624	Num 16,34	11=51(3x17)	44		7953		and vanish: 51.
625	Num 16,35	11	47	203	7964/176	P	
35 vss	Section 1 16,1-35	493	1871	18x	493		
Section 2 17,1-28						The Plague and the Vindication	
626	Num 17,1	5	18	204	7969	16	§ 4 The bronze censers as a sign
627	Num 17,2	17	59		7986	37	They must be made into plates: 17.
628	Num 17,3	20	87	205	8006		
629	Num 17,4	12	56		8018		
630	Num 17,5	28+	102	206-207	8046		Aaron executes the order: the plates
631	Num 17,6	16+	54	208	8062		shall remind the Israelites that only
632	Num 17,7	17	63	209	8079		descendants of Aaron are allowed to
633	Num 17,8	7=68(4x17)	24		8086/122	P	burn incense before YHWH: 68.

634	Num 17,9	5+	18	210	8091	17	§ 5 YHWH wants to destroy them
635	Num 17,10	7+3=10+	40		8101	7	
636	Num 17,11	27+	97	211	8128		Moses orders Aaron to intercede; so
637	Num 17,12	19+	66		8147		he offers incense to ward off the
638	Num 17,13	7=68(4x17)	32		8154		plague. Then the plague stops: 68.
639	Num 17,14	13	51		8167		
640	Num 17,15	10	36		8177/91	P	
641	Num 17,16	5+	18	212	8182	18	§ 6 YHWH declares whom he chooses
642	Num 17,17	24+	80		8206	63	One staff to be given for each tribe:
643	Num 17,18	13+	41		8219		The staff of YHWH's representative
644	Num 17,19	9+	36		8228		will put forth buds and YHWH will
645 C	Num 17,20	17=68(4x17)	65		8245		rid himself of their complaints: 68.
646	Num 17,21	24	94		8269		
647	Num 17,22	8	29	213	8277		
648	Num 17,23	19+	71		8296		The staff of Aaron is the only one
649	Num 17,24	15=34(2x17)	53	214	8311/134	S	that has buds! 34.
650	Num 17,25	4+15=19	73	215	8330	19	§ 7 The staff functions as a warning
651	Num 17,26	8	26	216	8338	15 S	This S directs attention to vs 27-28.
652	Num 17,27	11	44		8349		
653	Num 17,28	10	35	217	8359/48	S	
28 vss	Section 2 17,1-28	395	1468	14x	395		
63 vss	Part IV 16,1-17,28	888	3339	32x	888		

Observation 12 29 of the 63 verses (46%) and 443 of the 888 words (50%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part V 18,1-32 The Duties of the Levites and the Dues Payable to Them

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum wrds	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 18,1-20					DS	The Duties of the Levites	
654	Num 18,1	4+16=20+	75	218	8379	20	§ 1 YHWH instructs Aaron
655	Num 18,2	18+	68		8397	119	Section 1 as a whole is made up of 340 (20x17) words, by which it is finalized and highlighted.
656	Num 18,3	19+	65		8416	7x17	
657	Num 18,4	14+	53		8430		
658	Num 18,5	14+	53		8444		
659	Num 18,6	18+	70	219	8462		The 123 words of § 1 have 468
660	Num 18,7	20+	84		8482/123	S	(18x26) letters.
661	Num 18,8	4+17=21+	81	220	8503	21	§ 2 Holy gifts are for the Levites
662	Num 18,9	23+	84		8526	195	
663	Num 18,10	10+	37		8536		
664	Num 18,11	20+	78		8556		
665	Num 18,12	13+	49	221	8569		
666	Num 18,13	13+	51	222	8582		
667	Num 18,14	5+	17		8587		
668	Num 18,15	23+	84	223	8610		
669	Num 18,16	13+	52		8623		
670	Num 18,17	25=289(17x17)	81	224	8648		
671	Num 18,18	9+	37		8657		YHWH gives all the holy offerings
672	Num 18,19	24+	96	225-226	8681		to the Levites: 51 (3x17).
673	Num 18,20	4+14=18=51	68	227	8699/217	22	
20 vss	Section 1 18,1-20	340 (20x17)	1283	10x	340 (20x17)	83 S	

Section 2 18,21-32				The Dues Payable to the Levites			
674	Num 18,21	17	63		8716		§ 3 The tithes are for the Levites
675	Num 18,22	11+	39		8727		Since the Levites, being YHWH's
676	Num 18,23	19+	73		8746		ministers, have no share in land,
677	Num 18,24	22=52(2x26)	83	228	8768/69	P	their holdings are the tithes: 52.
678	Num 18,25	5	18	229	8773	23	§ 4 They give a tithe of the tithe
679	Num 18,26	24	96	230	8797	107	
680	Num 18,27	9	37		8806		
681	Num 18,28	20	79	231-232	8826		
682	Num 18,29	12	46	233	8838		
683	Num 18,30	12+	55		8850		This is their payment for service
684	Num 18,31	14=26	53		8864		in the Tent of Meeting: 26.
685	Num 18,32	16	61		8880/112	P	
12 vss	Section 2 18,21-32	112	703	6x	112		
32 vss	Part V 18,1-32	521	1986	16x	521		

Observation 13 In Part V Section 1, 18,1-20, about the Duties of the Levites, is in its entirety governed by the number 17 through its 340 (20x17) words. In Section 2, 18,21-32, about the Dues for the Levites, 6 of the 12 verses (42%) and 95 of the 112 words (85%) are highlighted by the numbers 17 and 26.

Part VI 19,1-22 The Removal of Defilement Caused by the Dead

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
686	Num 19,1	7	25	234	8887	24	The passage is an indivisible entity.
687	Num 19,2	25+	84	235	8912	339	YHWH's speech begins with 52 (2x26)
688	Num 19,3	13+	51		8925		words and ends with 26 words.
689	Num 19,4	14=52(2x26)	54		8939		
690	Num 19,5	13	44		8952		
691	Num 19,6	12+	46		8964		Vs 6-13 The duties of the priest to
692	Num 19,7	14=26	54		8978		purify himself and to perform the ritual
693	Num 19,8	11+	43		8989		purification, as well as how a person who
694	Num 19,9	20+	79		9009		has been defiled by a dead body, must
695	Num 19,10	18+	68		9027		purify himself: 26 + 102 words.
696	Num 19,11	8+	28		9035		
697	Num 19,12	17+	72		9052		
698	Num 19,13	28=102(6x17)	98	236	9080		
699	Num 19,14	16+	54		9096		When someone dies in a tent, everyone
700	Num 19,15	10=26	34		9106		who enters it will be unclean for 7 days: 26.
701	Num 19,16	18	57		9124		
702	Num 19,17	11	42		9135		
703	Num 19,18	26	88		9161		The ritual for a specific purification: 26+17.
704	Num 19,19	17	75		9178		
705	Num 19,20	22	76	237	9200		
706	Num 19,21	15+	57		9215		The ritual for purification is binding for
707	Num 19,22	11=26	39		9226/346	P	all time: 26.
22 vss	Part VI 19,1-22	346	1268	4x	346		

Observation 14 In Part VI 17 of the 22 verses (77%) and 275 of the 346 words (80%) are highlighted by the divine name numbers 17 and 26. Note the eight additional internal highlightings!

Part VII 20,1-13 The Sojourn at Kadesh: the Death of Miriam and the Rebellion at Meriba

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
708	Num 20,1	17+ 17	63		9243	DS	§ 1 Arrival at Kadesh and Miriam's death
709	Num 20,2	9=26+	31		9252		
710	Num 20,3	12+	47	238	9264		§ 1-2 The entire episode of the rebellion
711	Num 20,4	12+	46	239	9276		at Meriba is especially highlighted by
712	Num 20,5	18+ 18+	74		9294		altogether 156 (6x26) words.
713	Num 20,6	16+ 16=34	61	240	9310/84	P	
714	Num 20,7	5+	18	241	9315	25	§ 2 God supplies water from a rock
715	Num 20,8	25+	97		9340	25	
716	Num 20,9	8+	30	242	9348		
717	Num 20,10	19+	69		9367		
718	Num 20,11	15=156(6x26)	57		9382/72	S	
719	Num 20,12	6+19=25	90	243	9407	26	§ 3 God's verdict over Moses and Aaron
720	Num 20,13	11	37	244	9418/36	19 S	They will not lead Israel into Canaan.
13 vss	Part VII 20,1-13	192	720	7x	192		This is clearly meant as a cliffhanger!
326vs	Segm. A2: 10,11-20,13	4507	16993	150x	4507		See Observation 16.
720vs	Segm. A: 1,1-20,13	9418(554x17)	36217	244x	9418(554x17)		

Observation 15 In Part VII (which concludes Segment A2) 11 of the 13 verses (85%) and **156** of the 192 words (81%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. It concerns the whole episode of the rebellion at Meriba.

Observation 16 For more examples of the intriguing literary device of the cliffhanger, see my analysis of Trito-Isaiah: <http://www.labuschagne.nl/16.third-isaiah.pdf>, page 4. The cliffhanger in 20,13 is the first indication that we have arrived at an important break in the text: the end of the march in the Wilderness as the completion of the first step towards the settlement in the promised land. This is numerically underpinned by the fact that **Segment A (1,1-20,13)** is composed of **9418 (554x17)** words, which finalizes and seals the first halve of the book.

Segment B, 20,14-36,13 deals with the confrontation of the Israelites with the nations in and around Canaan, the last step leading up to the occupation of the land. That the delimitation of Segment B is correct (20,14-36,13) is numerically proved by the fact that it is made up of **6994 (269x26)** words. But there is more: both Segments are rounded off by a concluding passage consisting of **13** verses: **20,1-3** and **36,1-13**. This means that the book of Numbers as a whole, from the first to the last verse, is governed by the two divine name numbers **17** and **26**.

The 26 Divine Speeches in Segment A2: 10,11-20,13

Numbers	Texts	Introductions	Speeches	Total
1	11,16-20	4+	103+	107
2	11,23	4+	9+	13
3 I	12,4	9=17	5+	14
4	12,6-8	1	38+	39
5	12,14	4	15=170 (10x17)	19
6	13,1-2	5	22	27
7	14,11-12	4	24	28
8 II	14,20-25	2	71	73
9	14,26-35	7	136 (8x17)	143
10	15,1-16	5	180	185
11	15,17-31	5	190	195
12 III	15,35	4	10	14
13	15,37-41	5	64/876 (51x17)	69
14	16,20	7+	7+	14+
15	16,23-24	5+	10=17/884 (34x26)	15+
16	17,1-3	5=17	37	42+
17 IV	17,9-10a	5	7	12+
18	17,16-20	5	63+	68 (4x17)+
19	17,25	4	15=78 (3x26)	19=170 (10x17)
20	18,1-7	4+	119 (7x17)	123
21	18,8-19	4+	195	199
22 V	18,20-24	4+	83	87
23	18,25-32	5=17	107	112
24 VI	19,1-22	7	339	346
25	20,7-8	5	25	30
26 VII	20,12	6	19	25
26 DSS	Segment A2	125	1893	2018
24 DSS	Segment A1	144	2396	2540
50 DSS	Segment A	269	4289	4558

Segment A2, Part I (11,16-12,14) stands out with altogether **170** words in the five divine speeches.

Segment A2, Part IV (16,20-17,25) has **170** words, including the introductions

Speech 9 (14,26-35) stands out with its **136** (8x17) words. **Speeches 1-13** have 867 (**51x17**) words.

Speeches 14 and 15 (16,20 and 16,23-24) have **17** words. **Speeches 1-15** have 884 (**34x26**) words.

Speeches 18 and 19 (17,16-20 and 17,25) have altogether **78** (3x26) words.

Speech 20 (18,1-7) stands out with its **119** (7x17) words.

A word-count of the words spoken by humans (altogether 66 instances) did not yield such spectacular results, but six speeches stand out as being made up of multiples of **17** and **26**. What stands out in the words spoken by **Moses** is that his passionate plea to his father-in-law not to leave them, but to accompany them as their guide (10,31-32), is made up of **26** words. And when **Moses** addresses the whole community before the miraculous execution of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, arguing that if they and their followers would not die a natural death, it would be a sign that it was YHWH's penalty for their sin (16,28-30), he uses **51** (3x17) words. Another significant feature is that the two *positive* speeches of **the explorers** about the land (13,27-29 and 13,31) are made up of altogether **52** (2x26) words: 43 + 9 words respectively. Finally, the last two speeches by **the people** (17,27-28 [17,12-13] and 20,3-5) are made up of altogether **51** (3x17) words: 15 and 36 words respectively.

Segment B1: 20,14-27,11 The Confrontation with the Hostile Nations

Part I 20,14-29 The Confrontation with the Edomites and the Death of Aaron

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
721	Num 20,14	18	66		9436		§ 1 The onfrontation with the Edomites
722	Num 20,15	11+	56		9447		The envoys refer to the fact that YHWH
723	Num 20,16	15=26	65	245	9462		has freed the Israelites from Egypt: 26 .
724	Num 20,17	22	78		9484		
725	Num 20,18	10	36		9494		
726	Num 20,19	18	74		9512		
727	Num 20,20	10	39		9522		
728	Num 20,21	10	40		9532/114	P	
729	Num 20,22	9+	33		9541		§ 2 Arrival at Hor and the death of Aaron
730	Num 20,23	13+	44	246	9554	1	YHWH tells Moses and Aaron that Aaron
731	Num 20,24	20+	65		9574	43	will not enter the land; he must go up
732	Num 20,25	10=52(2x26)	31		9584		the mountain to die there: 52 .
733	Num 20,26	13	49		9597		
734	Num 20,27	12	41	247	9609		
735	Num 20,28	21	74		9630		
736	Num 20,29	14	49		9644/112	S	
16 vs	Part I 20,14-29	226	840	3x	226		

Observation 17 6 of the 16 verses (38%) and 78 of the 226 words (35%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**.

Part II 21,1-20 The Israelites Defeat a Canaanite King and Proceed to Pisgah

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
737	Num 21,1	16+	64		9660		§ 1 The king of Arad gives battle
738	Num 21,2	15+	56	248	9675		The Israelites appeal to YHWH and
739	Num 21,3	15+	63	249	9690/46	P	they can destroy the enemy.
740	Num 21,4	14+	47		9704		§ 2 They go round Edom's flank
741	Num 21,5	18=78(3x26)	77		9722		The Israelites complain again: 78.
742	Num 21,6	13+	51	250	9735		YHWH sends venomous snakes
743	Num 21,7	21=34(2x17)	80	251-252	9756		and Moses intercedes: 34.
744	Num 21,8	4+13=17+	54	253	9773	2	YHWH tells him to make a bronze
745	Num 21,9	18+	61		9791	13	serpent and erect it as a standard.
746	Num 21,10	5+	22		9796		The Israelites move on to encamp
747	Num 21,11	12=52(2x26)	50		9808		on Moab's eastern frontier: 52.
748	Num 21,12	5+	19		9813		From Zared they moved on and
749	Num 21,13	18+	74		9831		encamped on the other side of the
750	Num 21,14	12+	45	254	9843		Arnon in Amorite territory.
751	Num 21,15	9+	36		9852		A passage from the War Book!
752	Num 21,16	14+	48	255(15x17)	9866	S	[The S draws attention to vs 17-18]
753	Num 21,17	10+	33		9876		At Beer YHWH supplies the people
754	Num 21,18	10=78(3x26)	46		9886		with water. The Israelites sing! 78.
755	Num 21,19	4	24		9890		
756	Num 21,20	11	46		9901/211	P	
20 vs	Part II 21-1-20	257	996	8x	257		

Observation 18 17 of the 20 verses (85%) and 224 of the 257 words (87%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part III 21,21-22,1 The Israelites Defeat the Amorites and Occupy their Land

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	In Battle with the Amorites
757	Num 21,21	8	34		9909		
758	Num 21,22	17	59		9926		Vs 22-25 Israel requests passage
759	Num 21,23	20+	80		9946		through Sihon's land: 17; he gives
760	Num 21,24	18+	61		9964		battle at Jahaz. Israel defeats him
761	Num 21,25	14=52(2x26)	57		9978		and occupies the land between
762	Num 21,26	19	69		9997		the Arnon and the Jabbok: 52.
763	Num 21,27	10+	41		10007		A poem is cited, dealing with the
764	Num 21,28	13+	49		10020		fate of the Moabite cities.
765	Num 21,29	14+	55		10034		
766	Num 21,30	11+	40		10045		
767	Num 21,31	4=52(2x26)+	18		10049		Israel occupies the territory: [52]
768	Num 21,32	12+	46		10061		They capture Jazer and advance
769	Num 21,33	14=26+	57		10075		to Bashan. With the help of God
770	Num 21,34	4+22=26+	92	256	10101	3	they kill Og's family and all his
771	Num 21,35	15=119(7x17)	51		10116	22	people and occupies his land: 119.
772	Num 22,1	9	41		10125/224	S	They encamp opposite Jericho.
16 vs	Part III 21,21-22,1	224	850(50x17)	1x	224		

Observation 19 Part III is finalized and sealed by its 850 (50x17) letters. Additionally, 13 of the 16 verses (81%) and 188 of the 224 words (84%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part IV 22,2-24,25 The Reaction of the Moabites and Midianites: Balak and Balaam

A significant feature of Part IV is the complete lack of layout markers; the only **P** marks the end.

Vss	Texts	Words	Lett.	יְהוָה	Sum wrds	Compositional Structure
773	Num 22,2	10	33		10135	§ 1 The Moabites and Midianites take action
774	Num 22,3	13	45		10148	
775	Num 22,4	5+11+7=23+	85		10171	The Moabites: 5+11=16
776	Num 22,5	16+12=28=51	96		10199	¹ Balak speaks through messengers: 16+ 40=56
777	Num 22,6	28	92		10227	
778	Num 22,7	14	60		10241	22,8 ¹ Balaam: 2+10=12
779	Num 22,8	2+10+5=17+	67	257	10258	Balak's messengers stay with him; he waits for God
780	Num 22,9	5+4 =9=26	35		10267	4 to tell him what to do: 26. Elohim: 5+4=9
781	Num 22,10	4+7=11	38		10278	4 ² Balaam: 4+25=29
782	Num 22,11	18	65		10296	
783	Num 22,12	4+10=14	44		10310	5 Elohim: 4+10=14
784	Num 22,13	7+9=16	56	258	10326	10 ³ Balaam: 7+9=16
785	Num 22,14	7+4=11	43		10337/212	The Moabite chiefs' report: 7+4=11
786	Num 22,15	8+	32		10345	§ 2 Balak sends a second deputation
787	Num 22,16	5+10=15+	48		10360	Balak summons Balaam:
788	Num 22,17	16+	49		10376	Balak's messengers: 5+ 26=31
789	Num 22,18	6+ 19=25+	84	259	10401	⁴ Balaam: 6+32=38 22,20: Elohim: 7+16=23
790	Num 22,19	13+	42	260	10414	The whole episode of the messengers' stay with
791	Num 22,20	7+16=23+	78		10437	6 Balaam during the night awaiting his decision,
792	Num 22,21	10+	36		10447	16 and God's visit to Balaam to order him to go with
793	Num 22,22	19=119(7x17)+	69	261	10466	them, is highlighted: 119 words.
794	Num 22,23	22+	85	262	10488	
795	Num 22,24	9+	38	263	10497	The episode of the donkey and the Angel until
796	Num 22,25	16+	59	264	10513	the time that the donkey lies down and
797	Num 22,26	13+	53	265	10526	Balaam beats her just before God intervenes,
798	Num 22,27	15=85(5x17)	55	266	10541	is highlighted: 85 words.
799	Num 22,28	7+8=15	55	267	10556	The donkey: 7+8=15
800	Num 22,29	3+10=13	46		10569	⁵ Balaam: 3+10=13
801	Num 22,30	4+15+1+1=21	79		10590	The donkey: 4+15=19 ⁶ Balaam: 1+1=2
802	Num 22,31	17	67	268-269	10607	YHWH opens Balaam's eyes and he sees: 17. Note
803	Num 22,32	4+16=20	72	270	10627	7 that 34 (2x17) words are devoted to the donkey!
804	Num 22,33	17	67		10644	33 The Angel: 4+33=37 The Angel tells Balaam that
805	Num 22,34	5+15=20	72	271	10664	the donkey has saved his life: 17.
806	Num 22,35	5+11+5=21	73	272	10685/348	8 ⁷ Balaam: 5+15=20 The Angel: 5+11=16
807	Num 22,36	17	60		10702	11 § 3 Balak meets Balaam and rebukes him
808	Num 22,37	4+14=18	62		10720	22,36 Balak goes to confront Balaam: 17.
809	Num 22,38	4+15=19+	71		10739	⁸ Balaam: 4+15=19: he will only speak only what
810	Num 22,39	7=26	26		10746	God puts into his mouth: 26. ² Balak: 4+14=18
811	Num 22,40	9	37		10755/70	
812	Num 22,41	13	47		10768	§ 4 Introduction to Balaam's first oracle
813	Num 23,1	4+12=16	58		10784	⁹ Balaam: 4+12=16
814	Num 23,2	11	41		10795	
815	Num 23,3	3+13+2=18	73	273	10813	¹⁰ Balaam: 3 + 13 = 16
816	Num 23,4	6+8=14	56		10827	¹¹ Balaam: 6+ 8 = 14
817	Num 23,5	6+5=11	38	274	10838	9 YHWH: 6+5=11
818	Num 23,6	10	34		10848	5

819	Num 23,7	3+15	66		10866	
820	Num 23,8	10	28	275	10876	
821	Num 23,9	13	53		10889	¹² Oracle 1: 3+53=56
822	Num 23,10	15	56		10904	
823	Num 23,11	4+9=13	46		10917	³ Balak: 4+9=13
824	Num 23,12	2+9=11	39	276	10928/173	¹³ Balaam: 2+9=11
825	Num 23,13	3+18=21+	70		10949	§ 5 Balaam's second oracle Balak takes Balaam
826	Num 23,14	13=34(2x17)	51		10962	to another place and asks him to curse Israel: 34.
827	Num 23,15	3+7=10	34		10972	23,13 ⁴ Balak: 3+18=21 23,15 ¹⁴ Balaam: 3+7=10
828	Num 23,16	8+5=13	45	277	10985	¹⁰ YHWH: 8+5=13
829	Num 23,17	12+3=15	51	278	11000	⁵ Balak: 12+3=15
830	Num 23,18	3+7+	38		11010	¹⁵ Oracle 2: 3+75=78 (3x26)
831	Num 23,19	14+	51		11024	Excluding the introduction as well as Balaam's call
832	Num 23,20	6+	24		11030	to Balak to listen (23,18a.b): 68 (4x17) words.
833	Num 23,21	14+	52	279	11044	
834	Num 23,22	6+	25		11050	
835	Num 23,23	14+	50		11064	
836	Num 23,24	14=78(3x26)	50		11078	
837	Num 23,25	4+8=12	38		11090	⁶ Balak: 4+8=12
838	Num 23,26	5+10=15	54	280	11105/177	¹⁶ Balaam: 5+10=15
839	Num 23,27	4+13=17+	61		11122	§ 6 Balaam's third oracle ⁷ Balak: 4+13=17
840	Num 23,28	10+	37		11132	Balak takes Balaam to Peor and asks him to
841	Num 23,29	4+12=16+	58		11148	build 7 altars and prepare 7 bulls and 7 rams.
842	Num 23,30	9=52(2x26)	33		11157	23,29 ¹⁷ Balaam: 4+12=16 23,27-30: 52 words.
843	Num 24,1	19	72	281	11176	
844	Num 24,2	13	51		11189	
845	Num 24,3	3+8+	41		11200	¹⁸ Oracle 3: 3+70=73
846	Num 24,4	11+	39		11211	Special attention is paid to the fact that Balaam
847	Num 24,5	6=17	26		11217	is a visionary: 17.
848	Num 24,6	11	45	282	11228	
849	Num 24,7	11+	46		11239	Special emphasis is placed on this part of the
850	Num 24,8	13+	58		11252	blessing for Jacob/Israel: 34 words.
851	Num 24,9	10=34(2x17)	44		11262/157	
852	Num 24,10	12+9=21	74		11283	§ 7 Balaam's fourth oracle
853	Num 24,11	12	46	283	11295	⁸ Balak: 12+21=33
854	Num 24,12	4+9=13	46		11308	¹⁹ Balaam: 4+46=50
855	Num 24,13	24+	78	284-285	11332	
856	Num 24,14	13=46	52		11345	⁴ ²⁰ Oracle 4: 3+55=58
857	Num 24,15	3+8	41		11356	
858	Num 24,16	13	48		11369	
859	Num 24,17	19+	72		11388	Special emphasis is placed on Balaam's vision about
860	Num 24,18	10+	41		11398	the Star coming forth out of Jacob, who will smite
861	Num 24,19	5=34(2x17)	23		11403/141	Moab and conquer Edom: 34 words.
862	Num 24,20	6+6+	49		11415	⁵ ²¹ Oracle 5: 6+6=12
863	Num 24,21	6+5+	44		11426	⁶ ²² Oracle 6: 6+14=20
864	Num 24,22	9+	27		11435	51 (3x17)
865	Num 24,23	3+5+	28		11443	
866	Num 24,24	11=51(3x17)	38		11454	Balaam speaks 23x Balak speaks 8x: 126 words.
867	Num 24,25	9	35		11463/60 P	Balaam's 7 Oracles: altogether 289 (17x17) words.
95 vs	Part IV 22,2-24,25	1338	4895	29x	1338	Balaam's 16 speeches in dialogue: 219 words.

Observation 20 46 of the 95 verses (48%) and 607 of the 1338 words (45%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**.

The story of Balaam, Part IV, 22,2-24,25, is positioned in pride of place at the centre of the heptadic structure of Segment B1 (I + II + III + **IV** + V + VI + VII), which means that it is the most important event in the confrontation of the Israelites with the foreign nations in and around Canaan. Why? Because it deals with the fact that YHWH deliberately uses a foreign prophet to demonstrate that Israel is a blessed nation.

The most spectacular numerical feature of Part IV is that Balaam speaks **289 (17x17)** words in the Oracles and **234 (9x26)** in the Dialogues: **117** in chapter 22 and **117** in 23-24. The first seven speeches are made up of altogether **102 (6x17)** words. Moreover, the name of Balaam occurs **51 (3x17)** times.

This is not surprising because Balaam is here depicted as a textbook example of a true prophet, who speaks only *what YHWH puts in his mouth* (compare 22,8.18f.20.35.38; 23,3.5.8.12.16.20.26; 24,2.13, altogether **14** instances of this assertion). The author did his utmost to show that the words spoken by Balaam are of a divine nature. He is God's authorized spokesman when it comes to Israel's position among the nations.

Another significant feature is that in § 2 the story until the time that the donkey lies down and Balaam beats her, just before God intervenes (22,15-27), is made up of **204** words (12x17) and **728** (28x26) letters. Balak speaks altogether **51 (3x17)** words in 23,11-27.

In 22,28 and 30 altogether **34 (2x17)** words are devoted to the speaking of the donkey.

In the narrative **17** words are used to tell that God opens Balaam's eyes (22,31).

The Angel uses **17** words to tell Balaam that the donkey has saved his life (22,33).

The number **7**, signifying fullness, plays an important role: the word *seven* occurs **7x** (23,1: **3x**; 23,14: **1x**; 23,29: **3x**); there are **7** oracles; Balak builds **7** altars for Balaam and prepares **7** bulls and **7** rams; the designation Elohim occurs **7x**; the Angel, Elohim and YHWH speak altogether **7** times.

Here follows an **overview of the speeches of the 7 actants**: the Moabites, Balak, Balaam, Elohim, the Angel, YHWH, and the Donkey. In Balaam's 23 speeches I differentiate the 16 speeches in the dialogues (in prose) from the **7** oracles which are high-grade poetry.

Moabites/Balak	Balaam(dialogue)	Seven Oracles	God/Angel/YHWH	The Donkey
22:4 11+ 22:5f. 40=51(3x17) 22:14 4 22:16-17 26 22:37 14	22:8 1 10 22:10-11 2 25 22:13 3 9 22:18-19 4 32 22:29 5 10 22:30 6 1 22,34 7 15 1-7 102(6x17) words 22:38 8 15		22:9 1 4 22:12 2 10 22:20 3 16 22:32f. 4 33 =16+17 22:35 5 11	22:28 7 + 8=15 22:30 4 +15=19
22,2-41 95	22:1-41 117		22:1-41 74	11+23=34

Moabites/Balak	Balaam(dialogue)	Seven Oracles	God/Angel/YHWH	The Donkey
23:11 9+	23:1 1 12			
23:13 18+	23:3 2 13			
23:17 3+	23,4 3 8		23:5 6 5	
23:25 8+	23:12 4 9 } 17	1 23:7ff. 53		
23:27 13=51(3x17)	23:15 5 7	2 23:18ff. 75	23:16 7 5	
	23:26 6 10	3 24:3ff. 70 286 lett.		
	23:29 7 12	4 24:15ff. 55		
	68(4x17)	5 24:20 6 26 lett.		
		6 24:21 14		
		7 24:23f. 16		
24:10f. 21	24:12f. 8 46			
23-24 72	117	289(17x17)	10	
22-24 167	234(9x26)		84 (7x12)	11+23=34

This overview can also be found in an article I published in 2008, which has now been revised in light of the present analysis: [The Seven Oracles of Balaam in Numbers 22-24](#).

There the reader will find additional numerical features and, more importantly, information on the Balaam story in its literary context and an evaluation of the role of Balaam.

Part V 25,1-19a How and Why the Israelites Committed Idolatry at Shittim

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum wds	P/S	Compositional Structure
868	Num 25,1	9+	36		11472		§ 1 Israel seduced to worship other gods
869	Num 25,2	8=17	42		11480		Intercourse with Moabite women leads to
870	Num 25,3	8	34	286	11488		idolatry: 17 words.
871	Num 25,4	4+15+	68	287-289	11507	11	YHWH orders Moses to let the idolators be
872	Num 25,5	11+	46		11518	15	put to death: 52 words.
873	Num 25,6	22=52(2x26)	83		11540		
874	Num 25,7	13+	49		11553		Phineas murders an Israelite who had sex
875	Num 25,8	21=34(2x17)	77		11574		with a Midianite woman: 34 words.
876	Num 25,9	6	29		11580/117	P	
877	Num 25,10	5+	18	290	11585	12	§ 2 The priesthood of Phineas
878	Num 25,11	22+	84		11607	45	
879	Num 25,12	8+	26		11615		The entire paragraph is highlighted; it is
880	Num 25,13	15+	60		11630		about the reward YHWH gives to Phineas for
881	Num 25,14	15+	55		11645		the zeal for his God: The security of his
882	Num 25,15	13=78(3x26)	47		11658/78	P	priesthood for all time: 78 words.
883	Num 25,16	5+	18	291	11663	13	§ 3 Israel should make the Midianites suffer
884	Num 25,17	5+	23		11668	29	Vs 16-18 highlighted by 34 words.
885	Num 25,18	24=34(2x17)	84		11692		The use of an <i>atnach</i> after v. 19a rightly sug-
886	Num 25,19a	3	13		11695/34+3	P	gests that the Masoretes considered these
19 vss	Part V 25,1-19a	232	892	6x	232		3 words as belonging to 26,1, despite the P.

Observation 21 16 of the 19 verses (84%) and 215 of the 232 words (93%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Despite the *Petuchah* after 25,19a the Masoretes vocalized this half verse as if it were the beginning of 26,1: “*And it happened after the plague (+ atnach + P) that YHWH said to Moses...*”. In any case, the three words in v. 19a are not part of the divine speech. The Masoretes did not count it as a separate verse, for they have registered 1288 verses at the end of the book, while the computer counted 1289.

Part VI 26,1-65 The Second Census

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
887	Num 26,1	10+	36	292	11705	14	§ 1 God's order to make a census
888	Num 26,2	17+	59		11722	17	Everyone aged 20 years and upwards
889	Num 26,3	11+	44		11733		who is fit for military service: 52.
890	Num 26,4	14=52(2x26)	56	293	11747		
891	Num 26,5	11+	51		11758		The Reubenites are counted first: 17.
892	Num 26,6	6=17	32		11764		
893	Num 26,7	11	54		11775		
894	Num 26,8	3	13		11778		
895	Num 26,9	21	81	294	11799		
896	Num 26,10	18	67		11817		
897	Num 26,11	4	12		11821/126	S	
898	Num 26,12	12	65		11833		The Simeonites
899	Num 26,13	6	30		11839		
900	Num 26,14	7	33		11846/25	S	
901	Num 26,15	12	56		11858		The Gadites
902	Num 26,16	6	28		11864		
903	Num 26,17	6	33		11870		
904	Num 26,18	9	37		11879/33	S	

905	Num 26,19	9	34		11888		The sons of Judah
906	Num 26,20	13	62		11901		
907	Num 26,21	9	43		11910		
908	Num 26,22	9	40		11919/40	S	
909	Num 26,23	9	44		11928		The Issacharites
910	Num 26,24	6	32		11934		
911	Num 26,25	9	41		11943/24	S	
912	Num 26,26	12	62		11955		The Zebulunites
913	Num 26,27	8	37		11963/20	S	
914	Num 26,28	5+	24		11968		The Josephites
915	Num 26,29	12=17	55		11980		The Manassites: 17 words, and the
916	Num 26,30	9=26	41		11989		Gilead families altogether: 26 words.
917	Num 26,31	6	33		11995		
918	Num 26,32	6	32		12001		
919	Num 26,33	18	63		12019		
920	Num 26,34	9	40		12028/65	S	
921	Num 26,35	13	63		12041		The Ephraimites
922	Num 26,36	6	26		12047		
923	Num 26,37	14	61		12061/33	S	
924	Num 26,38	12	63		12073		
925	Num 26,39	6+	33		12079		The sons of Shupam, Hupham, Bela
926	Num 26,40	10+	44		12089		and Ard are specially mentioned: 26 .
927	Num 26,41	10=26	46		12099/38	S	
928	Num 26,42	11	48		12110		The Danites
929	Num 26,43	9	42		12119/20	S	
930	Num 26,44	12+	60		12131		The Asherites
931	Num 26,45	8+	43		12139		
932	Num 26,46	4+	11		12143		The sons of Asher are especially
933	Num 26,47	10=34(2x17)	43		12153/ 34	S	focused on by 34 words.
934	Num 26,48	9	48		12162		The Naphtalites
935	Num 26,49	6	28		12168		
936	Num 26,50	10	50		12178		
937	Num 26,51	11	42		12189/36	P	
938	Num 26,52	5	18	295	12194	15	§ 2 YHWH's instructions regarding
939	Num 26,53	6+	26		12200	34	the apportioning of the land among
940	Num 26,54	11=17	46		12211		the twelve recorded tribes: 17+17 .
941	Num 26,55	9+	35		12220		
942	Num 26,56	8=17	27		12228/39	S	
943	Num 26,57	13+	66		12241		§ 3 The family lists of Levi
944	Num 26,58	17+	76		12258		
945	Num 26,59	20+	72		12278		
946	Num 26,60	10+	39		12288		The sons of Levi are especially
947	Num 26,61	8=68(4x17)	34	296	12296		focused on as the priestly family: 68 .
948	Num 26,62	24	88		12320		
949	Num 26,63	15	57		12335		
950	Num 26,64	15+	57		12350		These lists do not contain the names
951	Num 26,65	19=34(2x17)	61	297	12369/141	S	of the old generation: 34 .
65 vss	Part VI 26,1-65	674	2923	6x	674		

Observation 22 27 of the 65 verses (42%) and 308 of the 674 words (46%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. Worth noting is that the census passage opens with a divine speech of **17** words (the **51st**) and that the passage dealing with the apportioning of land is opened by a divine speech of **17 + 17** words (the **52nd**).

Observation 23 According to 26,51 the total number of Israelites fit for battle by the second census is **601730**, which is a decrease of **1820** in comparison with the **603550** of the first census (1,46 and 2,32). It is important to note is that the number **1820** is a multiple of the divine name number **26** (70×26), which is too specific to be waved aside as a matter of chance; therefore it must be interpreted symbolically. We know that the factor **26** signifies YHWH's presence through his name, but the significance of **70** is not immediately clear. It does not seem to refer to the **70** elders at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24,1.9), nor to the **70** elders to whom YHWH bestows part of the spirit conferred on Moses (Num. 11,16.24.25). However, the author/redactor could have had in his mind the **70** descendants of Jacob in Egypt (Ex. 1,5 and Deut. 10,22), in which case **70** signifies Israel in the bud, Israel as a distinct nation.

In this respect it is important to recall that the *Genealogy of Shem until the Birth of Abram* (Gen. 11,10-26) is composed of **182** (7×26) words (see <http://www.labuschagne.nl/genesis/4.gen6,9-11,26.pdf>, page 5) and that the *Genealogy of Moses and Aaron* (Ex. 6,14-28) is also made up of **182** (7×26) words (see in this case <http://www.labuschagne.nl/exodus/1Exod1,1-15,21.pdf>, page 18). *All Israel* is therefore $10 \times 182 = 1820$, and *All Israel as the People of YHWH* is $1820 = 70 \times 26$. This is not surprising, because the decimal value of their ancestor Jacob is **182** ($10 + 70 + 100 + 2$). I am indebted to Klaas Eikelenboom for these observations.

The key to solving the present riddle, in my opinion, lies in the simple fact that there are **1820** less men fit for battle *on the eve of the conquest* than there were at the registration of the men who defiantly marched out of Egypt on their way to Sinai. The symbolic significance of this specific decrease of precisely **1820** is that 70×26 expresses the idea that despite the decrease in the number of soldiers, YHWH will be with his people when they cross the Jordan to conquer Canaan. He will fill the gap in their ranks, so to speak.

This is also how I think the **1820** (70×26) occurrences of the name of YHWH in the Torah should be explained, of which the storyline ends provisionally with the death of Moses, *on the eve of the conquest*.

Part VII 27,1-11 The Law of Succession to Landed Property

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	ידוע	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
952	Num 27,1	23+	90		12392		§ 1 The daughters of Selophahad
953	Num 27,2	14+	60		12406		
954	Num 27,3	20+	70	298	12426		Part VII as a whole is highlighted by its 156 (6×26) words.
955	Num 27,4	16+	55		12442		
956	Num 27,5	6+	23	299	12448/79	S	
957	Num 27,6	5+	18	300	12453	16	§ 2 YHWH grants their request
958	Num 27,7	17+	64		12470	62	
959	Num 27,8	15+	54		12485		
960	Num 27,9	8+	27		12493		
961	Num 27,10	9+	32		12502		
962	Num 27,11	13+10=	92	301	12525/77	S	V. 11b is part of YHWH's speech.
11 vss	Part VII 27,1-11	156(6×26)	585	4x	156(6×26)		Compare 1,16 and 4,33.
242 vss	B1: 20,14-27,11	3107	11981	57x	3107		

Observation 24 The text is in its entirety governed by the number **26** through its **156** (6×26) words. Part VII concludes **Segment B1** (20,14-27,11) with a law regarding the right of daughters to inherit, based on the claim of the daughters of Selophehad. Most significantly, **Segment B2** (27,12-36,13) is also

concluded by a law regarding inheritance: in this case a supplementary law regulating the marriage of heiresses, based on the rule prescribed by YHWH for the daughters of Selophehad (36,1-13). This compositional device firmly underscores the proposed division of Segment B into **B1** and **B2**.

The 16 Divine Speeches in Segment B1: 20,14-27,11

Numbers	Texts	Introductions	Speeches	Total
1	20,23	YHWH 13+	43	56+
2	21,8	YHWH 4=17	13	17+
3	21,34	YHWH 4	22	26=99
4	22,9	God 5	4	9+
5	22,12	God 4+	10+	14+
6	22,20	God 7+	16=26	23+
7	22,32f.	Angel 4+	33	37+
8	22,35	Angel 5+	11	16+
9	23,5	YHWH 6+	5	11+
10	23,16	YHWH 8=34	5	13=123
11	25,4	YHWH 4+	15	19+
12	25,10	YHWH 5+	45	50+
13	25,16	YHWH 5+	29	34+
14	26,1	YHWH 10+	17	27+
15	26,52	YHWH 5+	34	39+
16	27,6	YHWH 5=34	62	67=236
16 DSS	Segment B1	Total: 94	364 (14x26)	458

The 16 divine speeches have altogether **364 (14x26)** words. In terms of content, they have been divided into three sections. The speeches in Chapters 20-21 stand out as having altogether **78 (3x26)** words. Speeches 12-16 have altogether **187 (11x17)** words.

The way in which the divine name numbers are additionally woven (9x) into the text is self-evident. Together with the **10** divine speeches in Segment B2 there are **26** in Segment B, as in Segment A2.

Segment B2: 27,12-36,13 Preparations for the Conquest of the Promised Land

Part I 27,12-23 Moses' Nearing Death: Joshua Appointed as his Successor

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
963	Num 27,12	4+12	56	302	12541	17	§ 1 YHWH tells Moses about his death
964	Num 27,13	11	42		12552	33	
965	Num 27,14	10+6	65		12568/43	P	
966	Num 27,15	5	18	303	12573		§ 2 Joshua is appointed as his successor
967	Num 27,16	9	32	304	12582		
968	Num 27,17	19	74	305	12601		
969	Num 27,18	4+14	55	306	12619	18	
970	Num 27,19	11	49		12630	57	
971	Num 27,20	9	36		12639		
972	Num 27,21	23	86	307	12662		
973	Num 27,22	16+	63	308	12678		Moses presents Joshua to Eleazer and the
974	Num 27,23	10=26	38	309	12688/120	P	whole community and installs him: 26 words.
12 vss	Part I 27,12-23	163	614	8x	163		

Observation 25 Only 2 of the 12 verses (17%) and 26 of the 163 words (16%) are highlighted. The 120 words of § 2 may serve to prelude numerically on the death of Moses at the age of 120 years.

Part II 28,1-30,1 Daily and Periodical Offerings

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum wds	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 28,1-31					The Daily (Perpetual) Offerings		
975	Num 28,1	5	18	310	12693	19	§ 1 The daily (perpetual) offerings
976	Num 28,2	16	63		12709	763	
977	Num 28,3	15+	59	311	12724		Vs 3-8 are highlighted by its 68 (4x17) words.
978	Num 28,4	11=26+	41		12735		
979	Num 28,5	9+	42		12744		
980	Num 28,6	9+	35	312	12753		
981	Num 28,7	10+	40	313	12763		
982	Num 28,8	14=68(4x17)	58	314	12777/89	P	
983	Num 28,9	14	59		12791		§ 2 The Sabbath offerings
984	Num 28,10	7	26		12798/21	S	
985	Num 28,11	16	67	315	12814		§ 3 Offerings on the first day of the month
986	Num 28,12	16	68		12830		
987	Num 28,13	13	52	316	12843		
988	Num 28,14	18	75		12861		
989	Num 28,15	10	41	317	12871/73	S	
990	Num 28,16	8+	35	318	12879		§ 4 Offerings in the first month
991	Num 28,17	10+	37		12889		
992	Num 28,18	9+	34		12898		This paragraph is especially emphasized
993	Num 28,19	17+	67	319	12915		through its 102 (6x17) words.
994	Num 28,20	11+	49		12926		
995	Num 28,21	7+	33		12933		
996	Num 28,22	5+	21		12938		
997	Num 28,23	9+	32		12947		
998	Num 28,24	15+	58	320	12962		
999	Num 28,25	11=102(6x17)	42		12973/102	S	
1000	Num 28,26	16	72	321	12989		§ 5 Special Offering at the Feast of Weeks

1001	Num 28,27	15	59	322	13004		
1002	Num 28,28	12	52		13016		
1003	Num 28,29	6	29		13022		
1004	Num 28,30	5	20		13027		
1005	Num 28,31	9	41		13036/63	P	
	Section 2 29,1-30,1						The Offerings of the 7th Month
1006	Num 29,1	17+	65		13053		§ 6 Offering of the 1 st day of the 7 th month
1007	Num 29,2	16+	58	323	13069		
1008	Num 29,3	10+	44		13079		This paragraph is especially highlighted by its
1009	Num 29,4	6+	28		13085		68 (4x17) words.
1010	Num 29,5	6+	25		13091		
1011	Num 29,6	13=68(4x17)	61	324	13104/68	S	
1012	Num 29,7	15	61		13119		§ 7 Offering of the 10 th day of the 7 th month
1013	Num 29,8	18	65	325	13137		
1014	Num 29,9	11	48		13148		
1015	Num 29,10	6	29		13154		
1016	Num 29,11	11	51		13165/61	P	
1017	Num 29,12	19	73	326	13184		§ 8 Offering of the 15 th day of the 7 th month
1018	Num 29,13	20	78	327	13204		
1019	Num 29,14	17	73		13221		
1020	Num 29,15	7	33		13228		
1021	Num 29,16	9	38		13237/72	S	
1022	Num 29,17	15	58		13252		§ 9 Offering on the 2 nd day of the Feast
1023	Num 29,18	7	41		13259		
1024	Num 29,19	9	41		13268	S	
1025	Num 29,20	13	54		13281		§ 10 Offering on the 3 rd day of the Feast
1026	Num 29,21	7	41		13288		
1027	Num 29,22	8	35		13296/59	S	
1028	Num 29,23	12	51		13308		§ 11 Offering on the 4 th day of the Feast
1029	Num 29,24	7	40		13315		
1030	Num 29,25	9	38		13324/28	S	
1031	Num 29,26	12	51		13336		§ 12 Offering on the 5 th day of the Feast
1032	Num 29,27	7	41		13343		
1033	Num 29,28	8	35		1335/27	S	
1034	Num 29,29	12	49		13363		§ 13 Offering on the 6 th day of the Feast
1035	Num 29,30	7	41		13370		
1036	Num 29,31	8	35		13378/27	P	
1037	Num 29,32	12	51		13390		§ 14 Offering on the 7 th day of the Feast
1038	Num 29,33	7	41		13397		
1039	Num 29,34	8	34		13405/27	P	
1040	Num 29,35	10	38		13415		§ 15 Special Offering on the 8 th day
1041	Num 29,36	15+	56	328	13430		
1042	Num 29,37	7+	37		13437		Vs. 36-39, the review of the various
1043	Num 29,38	8+	35		13445		sacrifices that are to be offered to YHWH at
1044	Num 29,39	11+	70	329	13456		the appointed seasons is highlighted by
1045	Num 30,1	11=52(2x26)	36	330	13467/62	P	52 (2x26) words.
71 vs	Part II 28,1-30,1	779	3304	21x	779		

Observation 26 27 of the 71 verses (38%) and 290 of the 779 words (37%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part III 30,2-17 The Validity of a Vow, Especially a Woman's Vow

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	The Validity of Vows
1046	Num 30,2	13	48	331	13480		
1047	Num 30,3	19+	63	332	13499		An unmarried woman's vows are valid if
1048	Num 30,4	10+	39	333	13509		her father is ignorant of them or when he
1049	Num 30,5	22=51(3x17)	78		13531		knows about them but keeps silence: 51.
1050	Num 30,6	22	78	334	13553		
1051	Num 30,7	13+	48		13566		Similarly, the validity of a married woman's
1052	Num 30,8	14+	55		13580		vows depends on the following:
1053	Num 30,9	21+	75	335	13601		They are valid if her husband is ignorant of
1054	Num 30,10	10+	38		13611		them, but also when he knows about them,
1055	Num 30,11	10+	34		13621		but keeps silence; if he repudiates them,
1056	Num 30,12	17=85(5x17)	58		13638		they are not valid: 85 words.
1057	Num 30,13	20	75	336	13658		
1058	Num 30,14	11	42		13669		
1059	Num 30,15	25	82		13694		
1060	Num 30,16	9	30		13703		
1061	Num 30,17	16	56	337	13719/252	P	
16 vss	Part III 30,2-17	252	899	7x	252		

Observation 27 9 of the 16 verses (56%) and 136 of the 252 words (54%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. Special emphasis is layed on the validity of vows made by women: it depends on the father in case of an unmarried girl, and on the husband if she is married.

Part IV 31,1-54 Israel Exacts Vengeance on the Midianites

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1062	Num 31,1	5	18	338	13724	20	§ 1 Israel makes war on Midian
1063	Num 31,2	10	38		13734	10	YHWH commands Moses to exact
1064	Num 31,3	16	63	339	13750		vengeance on the Midianites.
1065	Num 31,4	9	35		13759		Moses gives orders to let 12.000 men
1066	Num 31,5	10	41		13769		be called up to take action against Midian
1067	Num 31,6	18=68(4x17)	73		13787		in YHWH's name: 68 words.
1068	Num 31,7	11	39	340	13798		
1069	Num 31,8	25	85		13823		
1070	Num 31,9	18	61		13841		
1071	Num 31,10	9	34		13850		
1072	Num 31,11	9+	34		13859		The Israelites collect the spoil and plunder
1073	Num 31,12	25=34(2x17)	88		13884/165	S	both man and beast: 34 words.
1074	Num 31,13	11+	47		13895		§ 2 The spoils are brought to Moses
1075	Num 31,14	12+	52		13907		Because the women and children had
1076	Num 31,15	6+	25		13913		been spared, Moses orders the officers
1077	Num 31,16	17+	63	341-342	13930		to kill every male child and all women
1078	Num 31,17	12+	41		13942		who have had intercourse with a man:
1079	Num 31,18	10=68(4x17)+	34		13952		they have seduced the Israelites: 68.
1080	Num 31,19	19+	78		13971		
1081	Num 31,20	12+	40		13983	S	This S has no delimiting funtion, but directs
1082	Num 31,21	16+	61	343	13999		attention to what is said in v 21ff.
1083	Num 31,22	13+	44		14012		Eleazer orders the soldiers to purify the
1084	Num 31,23	19+	64		14031		remaining spoils by means of fire and
1085	Num 31,24	9=156(6x26)	43		14040/156	P	water: altogether 156 (6x26) words.

1086	Num 31,25	5	18	344	14045	21	§ 3 The distribution of the spoils
1087	Num 31,26	13	52		14058	76	
1088	Num 31,27	11	46		14069		
1089	Num 31,28	20+	80	345	14089		YHWH wants a tribute from the soldiers
1090	Num 31,29	7+	35	346	14096		to be given to Eleazer and the Levites:
1091	Num 31,30	25=52(2x26)	96	347	14121		52 words.
1092	Num 31,31	9	33	348	14130		
1093	Num 31,32	16	60		14146		
1094	Num 31,33	4	17		14150		
1095	Num 31,34	4	17		14154		
1096	Num 31,35	14	48		14168		
1097	Num 31,36	16+	67		14184		Overview of the spoils, which remained of
1098	Num 31,37	9+	34	349	14193		the plunder, in numbers: highlighted by
1099	Num 31,38	8+	37	350	14201		52 words.
1100	Num 31,39	9+	40	351	14210		
1101	Num 31,40	10=52(2x26)	39	352	14220		
1102	Num 31,41	13	47	353-354	14233		
1103	Num 31,42	9	38		14242		
1104	Num 31,43	14	54		14256		
1105	Num 31,44	4	16		14260		
1106	Num 31,45	5	22		14265		
1107	Num 31,46	5	16		14270		
1108	Num 31,47	26	96	355-356	14296		Moses gives the Levites their share: 26.
1109	Num 31,48	11	47		14307		
1110	Num 31,49	15+	57		14322		The officers tell Moses that there were no
1111	Num 31,50	19=34(2x17)	74	357-358	14341		casualties and that they will offer jewelry
1112	Num 31,51	10	36		14351		as expiation for their lives: 34 words.
1113	Num 31,52	20	77	359	14371		
1114	Num 31,53	5	17		14376		
1115	Num 31,54	20	80	360	14396/356	P	
54 vss	Part IV 31,1-54	677	2597	23x	677		

Observation 28 31 of the 54 verses (57%) and 442 of the 677 words (65%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part V 32,1-42 The Allotment of Land East of the Jordan

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 32,1-19				Land for Clans on the East Bank			
1116	Num 32,1	20	74		14416		§ 1 The Reubenites and the Gadites
1117	Num 32,2	15	58		14431		
1118	Num 32,3	9	44		14440		
1119	Num 32,4	12	47	361	14452/56	S	
1120	Num 32,5	15	60		14467		§ 2 Moses wants them to participate
1121	Num 32,6	12	50		14479		
1122	Num 32,7	13	45	362	14492		
1123	Num 32,8	10	38		14502		
1124	Num 32,9	20	70	363	14522		
1125	Num 32,10	7	27	364	14529		
1126	Num 32,11	20	84		14549		
1127	Num 32,12	12	43	365	14561		

1128	Num 32,13	16	61	366-367	14577		
1129	Num 32,14	15+	59	368	14592		
1130	Num 32,15	11=26	45		14603/151	S	
1131	Num 32,16	10	44		14613		§ 3 They promise to draft for battle
1132	Num 32,17	19	75		14632		
1133	Num 32,18	10	36		14642		
1134	Num 32,19	14	55		14656/53	P	
19 vss	Section 1 32,1-19	260(10x26)	1015	8x	260(10x26)		
	Section 2 32,20-42						Conditions for Military Assistance
1135	Num 32,20	13+	50	369	14669		§ 4 Land in exchange for help
1136	Num 32,21	13=26	48	370	14682		Whoever drafts for battle must help
1137	Num 32,22	17	78	371-373	14699		drive away the indigenous nations:
1138	Num 32,23	12+	46	374	14711		26 + 17 words.
1139	Num 32,24	9+	40		14720		Moses urges them to carry out their
1140	Num 32,25	13=34(2x17)	49		14733		promise to help their brothers: 34.
1141	Num 32,26	9	38		14742		
1142	Num 32,27	11	45	375	14753		
1143	Num 32,28	16+	59		14769		Moses gives instructions to Eleazar
1144	Num 32,29	26+	103	376	14795		and Joshua to make sure that these
1145	Num 32,30	9=51(3x17)	39		14804		two tribes deserve what they get: 51.
1146	Num 32,31	14+	48	377	14818		
1147	Num 32,32	12=26	53	378	14830		They agree with the conditions and
1148	Num 32,33	28+	106		14858		Moses assigns the Amorite land to
1149	Num 32,34	9+	30		14867		the Reubenites, Gadites and half the
1150	Num 32,35	6+	24		14873		tribe of Manasseh: 78.
1151	Num 32,36	10+	34		14883		
1152	Num 32,37	9+	36		14892		
1153	Num 32,38	16=78(3x26)	57		14908		
1154	Num 32,39	12	46		14920		
1155	Num 32,40	9	31		14929		
1156	Num 32,41	11	43		14940		
1157	Num 32,42	11	39		14951/295	P	
23 vss	Section 2 32,20-42	295	1142	10x	295		
42 vss	Part V 32,1-42	555	2157	18x	555		

Observation 29 36 of the 42 verses (86%) and 492 of the 555 words (89%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Part VI 33,1-49 The Stages in the March of the Israelites

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהודה	Sum wds	S	Compositional Structure
Sect. 1 33,1-39							The March from Egypt to Kadesh and Mount Hor
1158	Num 33,1	12+	48		14963		Moses records the starting-points stage by
1159	Num 33,2	11+	50	379	14974		stage. The day after Passover the Israelites
1160	Num 33,3	19+	81		14993		leave Rameses defiantly in full view of the
1161	Num 33,4	13+	53	380-381	15006		Egyptians. They camped at Succoth ¹ and
1162	Num 33,5	6+	28		15012		proceed to Etham ² , which is situated on the
1163	Num 33,6	7=68(4x17)	30		15019		edge of the Wilderness: 68.
1164	Num 33,7	14+	50		15033		From Etham through the Wilderness to Pi-hahiroth ³
1165	Num 33,8	15+	66		15048		From Pi-hahiroth to Marah ⁴
1166	Num 33,9	13+	58		15061		From Marah to Elim ⁵
1167	Num 33,10	6+	22		15067		From Elim to the Sea of Reeds ⁶
1168	Num 33,11	6+	24		15073		From the Sea of Reeds to the Wilderness of Sin ⁷
1169	Num 33,12	5+	23		15078		From the Wilderness of Sin to Dophkah ⁸
1170	Num 33,13	4+	20		15082		From Dophkah to Alush ⁹
1171	Num 33,14	10+	40		15092		From Alush to Refidem ¹⁰
1172	Num 33,15	5=78(3x26)	25		15097		From Refidem to Sinai Wilderness ¹¹ (11 stages): 78.
1173	Num 33,16	6	29		15103		From the Sinai Wilderness to Kibroth-hataavah ¹²
1174	Num 33,17	5	25		15108		From Kibroth-hataavah to Hazeroth ¹³
1175	Num 33,18	4	20		15112		From Hazeroth to Rithmah ¹⁴
1176	Num 33,19	5	22		15117		From Rithmah to Rimmon-parez ¹⁵
1177	Num 33,20	5	22		15122		From Rimmon-parez to Libnah ¹⁶
1178	Num 33,21	4	19		15126		From Libnah to Rissah ¹⁷
1179	Num 33,22	4	20		15130		From Rissah to Kehelathah ¹⁸
1180	Num 33,23	5	22		15135		From Kehelathah to Mount Shapher ¹⁹
1181	Num 33,24	5	21		15140		From Mount Shapher to Haradah ²⁰
1182	Num 33,25	4	21		15144		From Haradah to Makheloth ²¹
1183	Num 33,26	4=51(3x17)	20		15148		From Makheloth to Tahath ²² (11 stages): 51
1184	Num 33,27	4	18		15152		From Tahath to Tarah ²³
1185	Num 33,28	4	19		15156		From Tarah to Mithcah ²⁴
1186	Num 33,29	4	21		15160		From Mithcah to Hashmonah ²⁵
1187	Num 33,30	4	22		15164		From Hashmonah to Moseroth ²⁶
1188	Num 33,31	5	24		15169		From Moseroth to Bene-jaakan ²⁷
1189	Num 33,32	6	26		15175		From Bene-jaakan to Hor-haggidgad ²⁸
1190	Num 33,33	5	24		15180		From Hor-haggidgad to Jotbathah ²⁹
1191	Num 33,34	4	22		15184		From Jotbathah to Ebronah ³⁰
1192	Num 33,35	5+	25+		15189		From Ebronah to Ezion-geber ³¹
1193	Num 33,36	8+	32+		15197		From Ezion-geber to Sin Wilderness, Kadesh ³²
1194	Num 33,37	8+	31+		15205		From Kadesh to Hor on Edom's border ³³ (11 stages)
1195	Num 33,38	22+	83+	382	15227		Aaron goes up Mount Hor on the 1 st day of the 5 th
1196	Num 33,39	9=52(2x26)	33=204		15236/285	S	month of the 40 th year; he dies 123 years old: 52
39 vss	Sect. 1 33,1-39	285	1239		285		Altogether 33 stages: 11+11+11.
Sect. 2 33,40-49							The March Through the Region of the Settled Nations
1197	Num 33,40	12+	47		15248		The king of Arad hears that Israel is coming!
1198	Num 33,41	5=17	22		15253		From Mount Hor to Zalmonah ³⁴ : 17.
1199	Num 33,42	4+	21		15257		From Zalmonah to Punon ³⁵
1200	Num 33,43	4+	19		15261		From Punon to Oboth ³⁶

1201	Num 33,44	7+	33		15268		From Oboth to Iye-abarim ³⁷
1202	Num 33,45	5+	22		15273		From Iye-abarim to Dibon-gad ³⁸
1203	Num 33,46	6=26	29		15279		From Dibon-gad to Almon-diblathaim ³⁹
1204	Num 33,47	8	39		15287		From Almon-diblathaim to Mountains of Abarim ⁴⁰
1205	Num 33,48	9	39		15296		From Abarim Mountains to Plain of Moab ⁴¹ (8 stages)
1206	Num 33,49	10	40		15306/70	S	Their camp extended from Beth-jeshimoth to
10 vss	Sect 2 33,40-49	70	311		70		Abel-shittim in the Plains of Moab.
49 vss	Part VI 33,1-49	355	1550	4x	355		Altogether 41 stages: 33 + 8.

Observation 30 38 of the 49 verses (78%) and 292 of the 355 words (82%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**.

Vs. 1-6, the review of the march through Egypt to **Etham** at the edge of the Wilderness has **68** (4x17) words.

Vs. 7-15, the review of the march from Etam to the **Wilderness of Sinai** has **78** (3x26) words. Together **11** stages.

Vs. 16-26, the review of the march from **Sinai to Tahath** has **51** (3x17) words: **11** stages.

Vs. 27-39, the review of the march from **Tahath to Hor**, is concluded by **52** (2x26) words: **11** stages.

Vs. 40-41, the reference to the Canaanite king and the review of the march to Zalmonah have **17** words.

Vs. 42-46, the review of the march from **Zalmonah to Almon-diblataim** has **26** words.

Observation 31 Part VI divides, through an **S**, into two distinct sections, **A**: vs. 1-39 and **B**: vs. 40-49.

This means that it has a *bipartite* structure very much like that of the book of Numbers itself.

Section A comprises the march from Rameses to Kadesh in the Wilderness of Sin and further on to Mount Hor where Aaron dies.

Section B deals with the rest of the march to the eastern bank of the Jordan, the region where the Israelites are seriously confronted with the settled foreign nations.

The only difference between the two bipartite structures is that in Chapter 33 the death of Aaron is included in **Section A**, as a result of which **Section B** begins with the reference to the Canaanite king of Arad - Israel's inevitable confrontation with the nations in and around the land of Canaan.

Thus the bipartite structure of Chapter 33 underscores *in its own way* the bipartite structure of the book, for, as I have argued above, the crucial divide is between the march through the *uninhabited wilderness* and the *inhabited region* in and around Canaan where Israel is confronted with the settled nations:

Section A: 33,1-39 The **33** stages of the *wilderness march* from Egypt to Kadesh and Mount Hor

Section B: 33,40-49 The **8** stages of the march among, and the confrontation with, the settled nations.

Part VII 33,50-35,34 The Distribution of Canaan and the Setting Aside of Certain Cities

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	ספר	Sum wrds	P/S	Compositional Structure
Section 1 33,50-34,29						DS	Instructions for the Division of Land
1207	Num 33,50	10+	37	383	15316	22	§ 1 YHWH urges Israel to expell the nations
1208	Num 33,51	14+	48		15330	99	
1209	Num 33,52	19+	75		15349		YHWH's message to the Israelites warning
1210	Num 33,53	12+	43		15361		them against the dangers that will threaten
1211	Num 33,54	24+	100		15385		them if they do not drive away the nations
1212	Num 33,55	23=102(6x17)	96		15408		is highlighted by 102 (5x17) words.
1213	Num 33,56	7	28		15415/109	P	
1214	Num 34,1	5+	18	384	15420	23	§ 2 The frontiers and the assignment by lot
1215	Num 34,2	21=26	75		15441	143	YHWH's message dealing with the southern
1216	Num 34,3	17	57		15458		frontier is especially highlighted by its:
1217	Num 34,4	18+	76		15476		26 + 17 + 26 words.
1218	Num 34,5	8=26	39		15484		
1219	Num 34,6	12	42		15496		
1220	Num 34,7	12	39		15508		
1221	Num 34,8	9	33		15517		
1222	Num 34,9	12	48		15529		
1223	Num 34,10	7+	32		15536		YHWH's message dealing with the eastern
1224	Num 34,11	14+	53		15550		frontier is especially highlighted: 34 words.
1225	Num 34,12	13=34(2x17)	57		15563		
1226	Num 34,13	20	76	385	15583		
1227	Num 34,14	17	66		15600		The two and a half 'eastern' tribes are
1228	Num 34,15	11	47		15611/196	P	already in possession of their holdings: 17.
1229	Num 34,16	5	18	386	15616	24	§ 3 The names of the men who assign land
1230	Num 34,17	13	50		15629	92	
1231	Num 34,18	9+	33		15638		Special attention is paid to Caleb from the
1232	Num 34,19	8=17	32		15646		tribe of Judah; he is mentioned first: 17.
1233	Num 34,20	6	26		15652		
1234	Num 34,21	5	21		15657		
1235	Num 34,22	7	23		15664		
1236	Num 34,23	9	33		15673		
1237	Num 34,24	7	28		15680		
1238	Num 34,25	7	29		15687		
1239	Num 34,26	7	28		15694		
1240	Num 34,27	7	27		15701		
1241	Num 34,28	7+	30		15708		The paragraph is rounded off and sealed
1242	Num 34,29	10=17	35	387	15718/107	P	with 17 words.
36 vss	Section 1 33,50-34,29	412	1598(94x17)	5x	412		Speeches: 334 words
Section 2 35,1-34							The Specified Cities
1243	Num 35,1	10	37	388	15728	25	§ 4 Towns must be reserved for the Levites
1244	Num 35,2	15	67		15743	116	
1245	Num 35,3	10	48		15753		Vs 2-6 This part of YHWH's speech is
1246	Num 35,4	11	46		15764		highlighted by 85 words.
1247	Num 35,5	30	113		15794		
1248	Num 35,6	19=85(5x17)	73		15813		
1249	Num 35,7	11	47		15824		
1250	Num 35,8	20	82		15844/126	P	

1251	Num 35,9	5	18	389	15849	26	§ 5 Cities of refuge for the homicide
1252	Num 35,10	13+	47		15862	351	
1253	Num 35,11	13=26+	50		15875		YHWH decrees that six cities must be
1254	Num 35,12	13+	51		15888		reserved for this purpose: three in Canaan
1255	Num 35,13	8+	31		15896		and three east of the Jordan: 78 words.
1256	Num 35,14	15+	59		15911		
1257	Num 35,15	16=78(3x26)	66		15927		
1258	Num 35,16	10	36		15937		
1259	Num 35,17	13	43		15950		
1260	Num 35,18	14	44		15964		
1261	Num 35,19	10	35		15974		
1262	Num 35,20	8	34		15982		
1263	Num 35,21	17	59		15999		Whoever attacks a victim is a murderer: 17.
1264	Num 35,22	12+	41		16011		Legal procedures to be followed in order to
1265	Num 35,23	18+	59		16029		take into account that there is a difference
1266	Num 35,24	10+	39		16039		between murder and manslaughter.
1267	Num 35,25	27+	92		16066		This means that the community must
1268	Num 35,26	11+	37		16077		guarantee justice and safety for a person
1269	Num 35,27	16+	53		16093		who kills someone accidentally, and may
1270	Num 35,28	17+	61		16110		act only on the evidence of at least two
1271	Num 35,29	8=119(7x17)	36		16118		witnesses: 119 words.
1272	Num 35,30	14	45		16132		
1273	Num 35,31	12+	39		16144		Payment for the life of a homicide guilty of
1274	Num 35,32	13+	45		16157		a capital offence may not be accepted.
1275	Num 35,33	24+	75		16181		The Israelites should not defile the land by
1276	Num 35,34	19=68(4x17)	64	390	16200/356	P	bloodshed, for YHWH dwells there: 68.
34 vss	Section 2 35,1-34	482	1772	3x	482		
70 vss	Part VII 33,50,35,34	894	3370	8x	894		

Observation 32 42 of the 70 verses (60%) and 589 of the 894 words (66%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Appendix: 36,1-13 The Law Regulating the Marriage of Heiresses

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1277	Num 36,1	22	94		16222		
1278	Num 36,2	21	85	391-392	16243		
1279	Num 36,3	21	93		16264		
1280	Num 36,4	18	77		16282		
1281	Num 36,5	14+	46	393	16296		Emphasis on Moses' ruling that
1282	Num 36,6	18+	79	394	16314		the daughters of Zelophehad
1283	Num 36,7	16+	59		16330		may marry whom they please
1284	Num 36,8	20=68(4x17)	80		16350		but only within their tribe: 68.
1285	Num 36,9	13	49		16363		
1286	Num 36,10	9	30	395	16372		
1287	Num 36,11	11	52		16383		
1288	Num 36,12	13	51		16396		
1289	Num 36,13	16	61	396	16412/212		
13 vss	Part XVI 36,1-13	212	856	6x	212		
327 vss	Segment B2: 27,12-36,13	3887		95x	3887		
533/532	Segment B: 20,14-36,13	6994	27328	152x	6994(269x26)		
MT 1288	Total 1,1-36,13	16412	63545	396x	16412		

Observation 33 4 of the 13 verses (31%) and **68** of the 212 words (32%) are highlighted by **17**. Most significantly, **Segment B** as a whole is made up of **6994** (269x26) words.

Observation 34 The Masoretes did not count the half-verse in 25,19, which is ended by an *atnach* instead of a *soph pasuq*, for according to their vocalization 25,19 belongs to Chapter 26 - see LXX, Vulgate and many modern translations. That is why the Masoretes noted in the colophon at the end of the book that there are **1288** verses. The computer counted 1289 verses.

The 10 Divine Speeches in Segment B2: 27,12-36,13

Numbers	Texts	Introductions	Speeches	Total
1	27,12ff.	4	33	37
2	27,18ff.	4	57	61
3	28,1ff.	5	763	768
4	31,1f.	5	10	15
5	31,25ff.	5	76	81
6	33,50ff.	10	99	109
7	34,1ff.	5	143	148
8	34,16ff.	5	92	97
9	35,1ff.	10	116	126
10	35,9ff.	5	351 1241 (73x17) lett.	356
10 DSS	Segment B2	58	1740	1798
16 DSS	Segment B1	94	364 (14x26)	458
26 DSS	Segment B	152	2104	2256
50 DSS	Segment A	269	4289	4558
76 DSS	Segments A+B	421	6393	6814

Observation 35 It is only the **16** divine speeches in **Segment B1** (20,14-27,11) that stand out with their **364 (14x26)** words. This is not surprising, for they relate to the *confrontation of Israel with the hostile nations* on the borders of Canaan, which functions as a prelude to the conquest and settlement.

Among the **9** speeches by Moses, only one is made up of a number of words (**130**) that is a multiple of a divine name number (5x26): his passionate address to the Gadites and Reubenites to convince them to cross the Jordan and help their brothers in their battle to obtain land for themselves.

To crown it all, the Gadites and Reubenites speak altogether also **130 (5x26)** words in their negotiations with Moses about their duty to help their brothers get land in Canaan:

In 32,2	they speak 21 words	} 85 (5x17) and 340 (20x17) letters
In 32,5	they speak 14 words	
In 32,16ff.	they speak 50 words	
In 32,25ff.	they speak 25 words with 104 (4x26) letters	
In 32,31f.	they speak 20 words with 78 (3x26) letters	
In total,	they speak 130 (5x26) words.	

This detail is the last impressive piece of evidence showing the extent to which the author/redactor of Numbers meticulously wove the divine name numbers into the text to signify YHWH's presence.